

# *Poké-Arabian Nights*

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## Chapter 1: Ormazd al-Bunaeon

The land of Poké-Arabia.

A land that looks like it was taken completely out of 1,001 Nights. But with futuristic high technology as well.

This was a land where old met new. And without the bane of regulations from overzealous religious leaders.

The land consisted of a jungle region, a desert region, and a sea with three moderately-sized islands.

The people of the land were of humanoids... with ears and tails of Pokémon (assuming the Pokémon in question had tails).

And one such man was Ormazd al-Bunaeon. Now Ormazd was a human character who also sported Eevee ears and a tail. His human skin was the apricot color. His eyes were burnt umber brown, and his hair an almost orange tint. He wore an ash gray sleeveless shirt under his azure vest. His pants were azure mist, held up with a bittersweet shimmer colored belt with a brass buckle. His boots were dark jungle green.

Ormazd had gotten dressed for the day, because he was on his way to meet his sweetheart in the town not too far from his own.

“It is good that I got up early enough,” said Ormazd.  
“My beloved is wanting to perform her famous dance soon.”

He had just finished his breakfast of toasted bread, coated with hummus and chopped dried dates, and proceeded to exit his small house—Ormazd didn't need much, so his house was kept simple.

Ormazd soon made his way to his special motorcycle. He had done maintenance the night before, so all he needed to do was unlock the security lock. Putting on his special jacket and helmet, he proceeded to start the engine. The vehicle soon roared to life, and Ormazd soon began to head off.

Ormazd lived in the peaceful town of Oliveevee Town, which was part of the jungle region of Poké-Arabia. Some Pidgey and Taillow were nesting in the nearby jungle trees warbling to calm some of the neighbors as they began to start their day. Ormazd got to wave to some of them as he passed by.

The shrine to the patron deities also passed by as Ormazd continued on. He had worshiped the day prior, so he knew the Legendary Pokémon Deities were watching and protecting them always.

A couple of neighbors, people with Rattata ears and tails, were on their way to help the community garden, when they waved to Ormazd passing by.

Some Zigzagoon neighbors also called out a friendly good morning to Ormazd.

It wasn't long until the Eevee-eared human exited Oliveevee Town and made it on the trail of the jungle.

The portion of jungle that was between Oliveevee Town and his destination, PokeBlyttia Town, was very tame.

Ormazd calmly went down the path, slowing down at a few points just to admire the scenery.

The songs of the bird Pokémon echoed, as did some cheerful Aipom playing with one another.

Some Mankey and Primeape were also sparring, as these Fighting-type Pokémon were wont to do.

“It is good that I am able to head out while it is still in the cool of the morning,” said Ormazd. Even though the jungle was cooler than the desert for obvious reasons, it could still be tepid for those unprepared for the sudden rise in temperature in the afternoon.

The Eevee man looked up briefly to even see a Tropius fly by and cheerfully shout out its nature call.

It didn’t take long for PokeBlyttia Town to come to view, and he then found a place to park his motorcycle.

“Well, here I am,” said Ormazd.

## Chapter 2: Saamayah al-Qarfavee

PokeBlyttia Town was almost exactly the same size as Oliveevee Town. The place was also a quaint jungle gardening town, and was also a center of the arts and music.

Other humans with Eevee ears and tails, including those of the evolved forms, were going about, carrying on with their days. Other Pokémon people were doing so as well.

A Persian man and woman were watching their Meowth daughter play with her hula hoop in the still relatively cool day.

A Furret man was with his girlfriend, who also had Furret ears and a tail, as they were on their way to the theater to watch a play.

A young man with Spinda ears and tail was currently working his garden of Watmel and Magost Berries, hoping for a luscious bumper crop!

But it wasn't long till Ormazd found the one he came to meet.

"Ormazd!" said a pleasant female voice.

Ormazd looked up and saw her.

There was a human woman with peach yellow skin, deep brown hair, and cerulean blue eyes. She was sporting her dancing uniform which was like a bikini, but with semi-transparent pant leggings between the bottom part and the anklets. The main color of the uniform was cerise, with the belt region and anklets colored dark candy apple red. The leggings themselves, though almost transparent, were a dark orchid color.

This was Saamayah al-Qarfavee, the beloved of Ormazd.

"Saamayah!" said Ormazd.

The two embraced and kissed, as it had been a while since they last met.

"I hope I'm not late," said Ormazd.

Saamayah giggled, "Of course not, Ormazd. In fact, you came even earlier than expected. I just got done with doing more practice for the dance this evening, and was going out to relax a bit when I saw you were coming."

"Ah yes, said Ormazd, "the dance. You are the best in this region at that dance."

Saamayah blushed and giggled some more.

"Why not make yourself comfortable at my inn?" she replied. "I prepared some tea."

"Thank you, my love," replied Ormazd as he headed to Saamayah's Inn.

Saamayah's inn was recently redecorated, and became the main talk of PokeBlyttia Town. Bright colored tapestries and curtains, and lush thriving plants, made a calming presence to anyone visiting the inn.

Ormazd drank some of the tea his beloved prepared. The sun soon set, and Saamayah emerged, with a man with Persian ears and tail also took a seat with his panpipes. He played the music on his instrument as Saamayah swayed and giggled to the rhythm of the music. Her moves had an almost hypnotic effect, especially so with her love. At the end of her dance, she took a deep bow, and Ormazd applauded loud for her.

Saamayah approached Ormazd and thanked him for gracing her with his presence.

"I was honored to," replied Ormazd.

However, while Ormazd was visiting Saamayah's inn, an enemy had approached the forbidden reaches of a large faraway mountain, the tallest mountain of the land.

He was in a robe and hood to conceal his identity. Using the tunnels to aid in his ascent, he made it to the innermost cavern.

Within the cavern, dimly lit by glowing crystals, lay a large pulsating egg, glowing with an eerie blood red light.

The robed man then chanted in a nearly-forgotten language. In the final verses of the chant, the egg split, and out emerged a malevolent entity.

The entity looked like a Mewtwo, but the main body was warm black with a crimson stomach area and tail, and the eyes glowed electric crimson. The being also had a feature that was also uncommon to Mewtwo--bat-like wings, with the color of quartz.

The evil being from the egg spoke: "I, Iblis-Mewtwo, have returned after many millennia of slumber!"

The aura of Iblis-Mewtwo was so immense, the person who awoke him simply died from the sheer power.

Iblis-Mewtwo then extended his wings and let out an evil laughter. The entire land began to shake.

## Chapter 3: The Prophecy of the Demon's Fall

Both Ormazd and Saamayah barely were able to keep their balance when the ground shook. Other people nearly fell over.

"What was that?!" both Ormazd and Saamayah said in surprise.

A beam of evil magic energy burst from the summit of the mountain. The whole land was able to see it.

"Is that the lone mountain of this realm?" asked Ormazd.

"It is," replied Saamayah, "but what could this mean?"

"A very ill omen," said an elderly man's voice.

All looked and saw an old man with Espeon ears, tail, and head gem. He had some hair on his head, that was gray as his beard. His medium-brown leathery robe has seen many days, yet still has much time left before needing replacement. His tan eyes, still able to see, looked at the mountain, then back at Ormazd.

The old Espeon man said, "The evil arch demon, Iblis-Mewtwo, has reawakened!"

The people gasped in horror.

"Yes," continued the man. "Long ago, a great holy man and his warriors had imprisoned Iblis-Mewtwo in the mountain for his malice. But now, some fool has awakened him, thinking he will give that mortal power. But he is too powerful for anyone to control. Now he has returned to do harm to all of Poké-Arabia once again!"

"Is there anything we can do?" asked Saamayah, worried.

"We can't," said the old Espeon man, then pointing to Ormazd, he continued, "but he can. For I have seen in a vision, not only of Iblis-Mewtwo's return, but that this young man will be the one to banish him once more!"

"Me?" Ormazd asked, surprised. "How can I do such a task?"

The elderly Espeon gently touched Ormazd's forehead and said, "Seek out the power of the Three Trinities. The holy man in the past has left behind his sword, shield, and cape. The sword has indentations in the blade to gain the powers of the three holy beasts--Raikou, Entei, and Suicune. The shield can obtain the powers of the three endurable ones--Regirock, Regice, and Registeel. And the cape can hold the powers of the three holy birds--Articuno, Zapdos, and Moltres. With these powers, you'll be able to overcome the fiend and save all of the land!"

"Where can I find each of them?" asked Ormazd.

The Espeon man chuckled and replied, "Well, as we all know, there are three portions that make up Poké-Arabia's kingdom--the jungle region, the desert region, and the three islands of the sea. And each of the three portions has a temple of a holy beast, a tower of a holy bird, and a cavern of an endurable one. Of course, each of them will have puzzles and tests to see if one is truly worthy of their aid, but then, what is life without a challenge?"

"Yes, sir," said Ormazd. "I am prepared to save Poké-Arabia!"

"Follow me, young man," said the elder. "I have the sword, shield, and cape with me, for my family had been



entrusted with protecting them for generations. We were guarding them, awaiting a hero to equip them."

Saamayah said, "Oh, Ormazd, I will pray for you at the shrine every time I am there."

"Thank you, my love," replied Ormazd.

The two kissed before Ormazd continued on his way with the elder.

The elder opened the door to his house. Any family that used to live there, that was still alive, had moved out. Thus, only some simple furnishings and the minimum comforts were within.

Ormazd followed the elder to a closet, and the elder opened the door, and surely enough, there were the sword, shield, and cape.

The sword was a falchion blade, which was a one-handed version of a scimitar. The hilt was golden-brown, and the main blade was an alloy of platinum that was very beautiful and shiny, but strong.

The shield's main color was a lush green, but within firm olive wood frame.

The cape was also a lush green, albeit a different tone from the shield.

Ormazd donned the cape with the elder's help, and then he picked up the shield, placing it over his left arm, before picking up the sword with his right hand.

"I am now prepared to thwart the wiles of Iblis-Mewtwo!" said Ormazd.

"The gods of Poké-Arabia be with you!" said the elder. "And may the power of the Three Trinities lead you to victory!"

The people of PokeBlyttia Town cheered and wished Ormazd good luck as he left. One Raticate man gave Ormazd a map of the land to help him on his way.

## Chapter 4: The Royals of Raikallium City

Ormazd soon fired up his special motorcycle and went out of the town.

The jungle of the region had some parts of shade to keep the place from being unbearably hot, but it was rather warm all the same.

The jungle region had three major kingdoms-- Raikallium, Zapinium, and Rhubrock. Oliveevee Town and PokeBlyttia Town were in the jurisdiction of Raikallium.

Since Raikallium City was close by, Ormazd figured he'd go there first.

Ormazd's motorcycle traveled smoothly on the jungle path, as Spearow and Pidgey flew about the treetops, along with Taillow flocks.

A few more Tropius also flew overhead, snacking on the higher fruits and dropping off seeds for new plant life. A few Aipom, whether regular, or humans with Aipom ears and tails, climbed onto some resting Tropius to help themselves to the bananas on the creatures' chins.

"Things seem to be calm so far," said Ormazd as he continued on.

But it wasn't long until the Eevee man saw trouble.

A small family was running by. The husband and wife each had Linoone ears and a tail. The man had black hair and light tan eyes; the woman had medium brown hair and amethyst eyes. Their small daughter had the Zigzagoon ears and a tail, as well as dark brown hair and gray eyes. Both were in mild weather attire, but they were not there for just a jog. They were fleeing from danger.

Ormazd stopped his motorcycle for a brief bit to address the family.

"Friends," said Ormazd, "what is the trouble?"

"Our beloved sultan is in danger," said the man.

"Some criminals have infiltrated the city," said the woman, "and have been outwitting the sultan's guards and police left and right."

"Please help us!" said the daughter.

"I am on my way to Raikallium City right now!" replied Ormazd.

"We are deeply grateful!" said the man. The family then continued on to the safety of PokeBlyttia Town, to await the good tidings from Raikallium.

The motorcycle started again, and the Eevee man continued to his destination, but now with greater speed.

It had been so long since he saw the coronation of the new sultan, after the previous sultan passed away from a debilitating illness. Ormazd himself was still a boy when the new sultan assumed the throne.

Ormazd wondered how much had changed since that coronation. But soon his focus returned to saving him from whatever evildoer was threatening his life.

A few Yanma buzzed along as Ormazd soon got close to the city limits.

Soon, Raikallium City came into view.

"Here it is," said Ormazd. "Raikallium City!"

Raikallium City was the main hub of the Raikallium Kingdom, one of the kingdoms of the jungle region of Poké-Arabia.

Part of its name comes from its close proximity to the Temple of Raikou, who is the patron deity of that kingdom.

It was also the center of science in that particular part of the realm.

Ormazd and Saamayah had visited there in their childhood, having a tour of the science academy therein.

He remembered how he and his beloved looked about in that place of learning, and even saw various rooms where new ideas and device were being invented.

But there was no time for visiting there now--he had to save the sultan.

The criminals who were causing havoc in the land were with Poochyena ears and tails, but otherwise were human, and were dressed as an Arabian militant group.

Some of them had scimitars, others had rifles. And others still had laser weapons.

"They must've stolen the devices from the academy!" said Ormazd. He then got out his falchion and shield, ready to fight.

"Hey, who's that punk?!" said one of the enemies.

Another said, "Who cares?! Let's take him down!"

Ormazd's shield blocked the rifle bullets, and he was able to move out of the way just before the enemies could aim their laser guns properly to strike.

The Eevee boy then fought with his falchion. Most Poochyena scofflaws were taken down with just a few strikes.

The few remaining from the battle decided to retreat.

"We gotta tell the boss!" said one of the survivors.

"Yeah!" said another. "He might take us out before we have a chance to off the sultan and his family!"

As the criminals retreated, Ormazd looked afar.

"Family?" Ormazd asked. "He now has a family? It must have been a lot longer than I thought."

Now he really had to hurry, for there were more lives that needed saving.

A Delcatty woman waved hello. Despite her veil, Ormazd could tell she was smiling.

"I overheard the fight," said the Delcatty woman.

"I must save the sultan," replied Ormazd.

"My brother can get you there," the woman said. She then beckoned Ormazd to follow.

It didn't take long to get to the man. He also had Delcatty ears and a tail, his human skin was tan, with red-brown hair and brown eyes. He had a grey t-shirt, black pants, and white boots.

"I am Zaif bin-Wardatalquti," said the man. "I see you met my sister Munazza. You say you wish to aid the sultan."

Ormazd said, "Yes! Indeed, it is urgent!"

"Follow me," said Zaif. "I know the shortcut to the sultan's palace. Because of the troublemakers, all the guards have been taken out of action."

Ormazd followed Zaif to the sultan's palace. The palace looked like the real-world Al Hazm Castle of Oman, but with crystalline windows, some satellite dishes and radar antennae, and other features that made it a mix of science fiction and fantasy.

Alas, any defenses within did little to deter the criminal gang from infiltrating the place.

"I've a gut feeling the enemy had taken over the security of the place," said Ormazd.

"I know a secret passage in," said Zaif. "I went through it once with the sultan's wife's help when they were having a drill for escape."

Zaif led Ormazd to a wall left of the main entrance. The Delcatty man felt the bricks until he found the loose one and pushed it, revealing a hidden door. Fortunately, none of the evildoers knew of the secret passage, as Ormazd went in.

"I'll stay out here and keep an eye out for other trouble," whispered Zaif. "Good luck!"

Zaif carefully closed the door behind Ormazd. Some glowing crystal-like lamps provided illumination for the path.

The inside of the palace in Raikallium City was very ornate, with blue and sungold colors on the tapestries, marble floors and columns, paintings of Raikou, and much more.

Censers of incense hanging as chandeliers provided fragrance near the crystalline lanterns that provided light inside.

The latest in air conditioning kept the inside cool during the hotter days of the year.

But Ormazd wasn't inside to enjoy the ambience. He was there to save the sultan.

A few more Poochyena ruffians emerged, with some sabers. And one of them recognized Ormazd.

"Hey," said the one Poochyena, "it's that Eevee doof who roughed up some of our gang! Get him!"

The group charged--there were about five of them--prepared to attack. Ormazd again armed himself with the falchion and attacked, with his shield to block any enemy offensive.

Four of them, including the one from before, fell to the blade. The fifth pleaded for mercy.

"Where's the sultan?" said Ormazd.

The surviving Poochyena said, "I last saw him in the throne room--our boss is probably hunting for him."

Ormazd spared the Poochyena man's life, telling him "Leave this place and never return!" The man simply nodded. He went out the secret passage.

Zaif saw the man was unarmed, and the Poochyena man told how his life was spared, and he promised to never trouble the place again.

Ormazd raced down the hall, as he remembered being here before during the sultan's coronation.

He soon opened the doors and entered into the throne room. The throne room had many tapestries of the emblem of Raikallium--a lineart of Raikou's face in sungold thread, with a sky-blue background. The columns were gray marble with specks of pink and cyan. The floors were a dark gray marble, glistening like a starry night. And the walls were white alabaster with blue and sungold curtains. The throne had a gold-leaf likeness of Raikou above the main seat. There was a slightly smaller but equally elaborate throne for the queen nearby.

But within the throne room was the leader of the entire racket, a man with Mightyena ears and a tail, dressed as a military leader and had his own war turban.

"Sultan," said the Mightyena leader. "Come out, come out, wherever you are. I won't hurt ya... much!"

"Turn around, fiend!" said Ormazd, his weaponry at the ready.

The Mightyena leader turn around, his pale green eyes seeing him.

"Ah," he said. "You must be the man who caused me and my followers trouble. I, Aldube Alsumur--the 'sable hyena'-will put an end to your little adventure!"



Aldube got out his own two-handed broadsword, and lunged toward him. Ormazd quickly sidestepped the first charge.

"You will not lay a finger on the sultan!" said Ormazd as he prepared to battle.

The second time Aldube charged, Ormazd didn't sidestep, but clashed his blade against the enemy's.

The enemy leader said, "You must either be very brave, or very stupid, for you to challenge me this way!"

"I do what I know is right!" replied Ormazd as he shoved Aldube back.

The two combatants clashed their blades. Aldube was lucky to knick Ormazd in the leg, but it was but a mild gash.

Ormazd ignored the pain in his leg as he made a lucky thrust into Aldube's abdomen.

The enemy leader collapsed, his wound bleeding.

"Drat you!" said Aldube. "I could've been the new ruler here. Or at least, my own gang could continue our ways here unhindered."

"That will never be," replied Ormazd.

Other Poochyena in the gang saw their leader fallen. The surviving members of the band dispersed and left Raikallium City, never to return.

Ormazd cleaned his sword blade and put it back in the sheathe.

"Sultan Riyad Easifa," said Ormazd, "it is safe now."

Sultan Riyad had emerged from hiding. Ormazd was astonished to see he now had Raichu ears and a tail, along with his tan human skin, black hair, and medium brown eyes. It was obvious he had evolved since Ormazd last saw him.

"Ormazd," said the sultan. "It has been such a long time since I last saw you."

Soon, the rest of his family emerged from hiding as well. His wife, Sultana Nyza, had tan skin, black hair with a red shine, and gray eyes, as well as Pikachu ears and tail. Her blue sultana gown and golden tiara added to her beauty. With her was the pair's son, a young boy named Prince Amad Easifa. He was still a young boy, with Pichu ears and tail, but with light tan human skin, brown hair, and tan eyes. He wore a princely vest, shirt, and pants, as well as a cute but regal fez cap.

"Thank you, friend," said Sultana Nyza. "You were very brave!"

"So you are the Ormazd that Daddy talked about," said Prince Amad.

"How can we ever repay your noble act?" asked Sultan Riyad.

"I need to enter the Temple of Raikou," explained Ormazd. "Some foolish soul had released Iblis-Mewtwo from his prison, and I must unite the power of the Three Trinities to counter this threat!"

The royals gasped in horror.

"So," said Sultana Nyza, "the threat of the Poochyena bandits was but the surface of the problem."

"Indeed," replied Sultan Riyad. He then reached into his pocket and got out a key--it was a golden key with the image of Raikou's face on the handle.

"Here, friend," continued the sultan. "This is the key to the Temple of Raikou. I will have one of my guards take you through the shortest and fastest route there."

"Thank you, Sultan Riyad," said Ormazd.

"No," replied the sultan. "It is we who thank you!"

Sultan Riyad then clapped his hands, and a guard--a Pikachu guard--emerged.

"You know the shortcut to the Temple of Raikou," said Sultan Riyad. "Please escort him through there."

"Yes, sire," said the guard with a salute. He then signaled Ormazd to follow him, which Ormazd gladly obeyed.

## Chapter 5: The Temple of Raikou

Ormazd followed the guard through the city to his special mini-car. While small compared to other vehicles in the sultan's garage, it had some armored plating, should an evildoer plan an assassination attempt. The armor was lightweight but strong.

The vehicle carried the two on the shortest road through the jungle to the temple of Raikou.

The temple looked like a large Middle Eastern ancient temple. One would easily mistake it for the real world's Taj Mahal, except firstly, it wasn't a tomb. And secondly, it had various runes on the walls indicating weather, especially fierce thunderstorms. It was a befitting theme for a legendary Pokémon of thunder.

The temple had on its walls colors of light gray, white, and yellow. Its windows were designed to look like cumulus clouds in a way.

Ormazd soon exited the car, as did the guard.

"Here we are, friend," said the guard. "The Temple of Raikou."

"Thank you again, sir guard," said Ormazd.

The Eevee man approached the doors of the temple. They were chained shut, and a single lock held the chains together.

Ormazd inserted the key into the lock, and turned it. The lock dissolved first, and then the chains afterwards.

The doors soon opened wide.

"Go on, Ormazd," encouraged the guard. "I am certain there will be a signal of your success!"

Ormazd simply waved farewell before going inside.

The doors slowly closed behind Ormazd after he entered.

After the doors closed, crystalline lanterns started to shine, illuminating the halls.

Pillars with capitals resembling clouds were visible in the yellow-gray halls.

Murals depicting Raikou creating storms adorned the walls as well.

A cleric in yellow and off-white robes approached. He had pale skin, brown hair, and gray eyes. But his hair was made to resemble the mane of a Manectric, and has a tail to match.

"Welcome, Ormazd al-Bunaeon," said the cleric. "Yes, we know your name, for Raikou had told us of your arrival. And we know why you are here."

The cleric then approached as he continued:

"The Three Trinities know of Iblis-Mewtwo's release, and have prepared for your arrival. Each member of the Three Trinities has prepared some tests for you--these tests are to strengthen you and prepare you for the battle to come, for Iblis-Mewtwo is not a foe to take lightly."

The Manectric Cleric then raised his hand. A mist surrounded both at first, and when the mist cleared, the two were in a maze.

"I shall await you at the end of the maze," said the cleric. "There are clues to the correct path. Practice for a while, and you'll soon know the correct path." After saying thus, the cleric vanished.

Ormazd soon went down the path. While most crystal lanterns were pale yellow, sometimes at a junction or intersection, he'd see lanterns that were either sky blue or bright red. Sometimes, he'd go to a dead end by accident.

After a while, Ormazd began to get the idea. The bright red crystal lanterns indicated the wrong way, and the sky blue showed the correct path.

Ormazd traveled the path, following the sky blue crystal lanterns when at a crossroads, and found the exit in about a half an hour.

"Very good," said the Manectric cleric. "I told you, all you had to do was practice, and you'd find the right path."

The cleric waved his hand again, and they found themselves in the chamber they were originally in.

Another door opened.

"Another test awaits you in the next chamber," he said. "Prepare yourself."

The cleric vanished again, and Ormazd went through the door.

The doors closed when Ormazd made it into the second main chamber of the temple.

Again, crystalline lanterns lit, this time with a yellow-green color.

Nearby stood a man with brown hair and a beard, tawny skin, and gray eyes. But his head hair looked almost like the fur of a Primeape, and had ears of a Primeape to match.

He had baggy pants and boots, and a sash belt, indicating an Arabian warrior. And he held a large scimitar in his hands.

"Welcome, Ormazd," said the Primeape warrior. "You have shown your resolve in the maze. Now let us have a test in battle. Those Poochyena criminals and their Mightyena leader were a mere warm-up compared to what you are about to face. For there are many hazards along your journey, including many battles. Some foes are criminals, others tyrants, and even more

are servants of Iblis-Mewtwo himself. In any case, you must steel your courage!"

"I am prepared," said Ormazd. "I shall ensure my loved ones, especially my beloved Saamayah, have a future."

Pulses of electricity soon surrounded them, creating a sort of caged arena.

Both of them assumed battle stances.

"Then," said the Primeape, "let us begin."

Ormazd blocked a scimitar slash with his shield, as the falchion alone couldn't block the blow, unlike his battle with Aldube Alsumur.

The shield blocked the scimitar blows, until there was an opening for Ormazd to thrust with the falchion.

"Urgh!" grunted the Primeape. "Very good, but let's see if you can adapt as well as I!"

The Primeape leapt up into the air, preparing an overhead chop. Ormazd dove out of the way, and the scimitar made a gash in the floor.

Ormazd waited for the Primeape to turn around before doing another thrust.

"Augh!" roared the Primeape fighter. "You have honor. I can respect that. Keep up your skill!"

The ape-like Pokémon warrior then did a spinning slash, moving and whirling like a tornado. Ormazd just simply kept his distance for a few seconds, until the warrior got dizzy from his spin. The Eevee hero made one more swipe with his falchion.

"Yeaghh!" screamed the warrior. "I give! You mix strategy with strength very well!"

The lightning bolts making the cage soon faded. The chamber returned to normal.

Magic from the temple itself healed up the warrior's wounds.

Another pair of doors opened.

"The final challenge of the temple," said the Primeape man, "is with Raikou himself. He awaits you within the inner sanctum."

"Understood," said Ormazd. "I shall be ready."

Ormazd then entered into the inner sanctum of Raikou. The doors shut once he was inside.

The Inner Sanctum of the Temple of Raikou was even more elaborate than the other parts of the temple.

It resembled the top of a thunderhead cloud, with cushions and furnishings arranged to look as such.

An incense burner near the statue of said legendary Pokémon was shaped to look as though it was situated on metallic lightning bolts.

The room itself was painted dark blue, as though situated under a storm cloud.

Soon, wisps of smoke from the incense burner flowed toward the statue, and it soon shed the stone shell, revealing the real Raikou.

Under normal circumstances, the gender of legendary Pokémon were not known, but in this case, Raikou identified as male.

The regular form of Raikou then glowed, and soon changed into a man, but with Raikou's ears and its lightning-like tale. He had black hair, and eyes glowing like lightning from behind his mask, which resembled Raikou's face. His vest resembled the purple clouds of Raikou, and the back indicating the thunderhead. His pantaloons had the same stripes as Raikou, and even the boots resembled Raikou's back feet.

"Welcome, Ormazd," said Raikou. "You truly are brave to make it this far. Now, before you have my gemstone for



power, let us have a battle here--be ready, for this is a greater challenge than my Primeape warrior."

Ormazd got out his shield and sword.

"I am prepared, great Raikou," said Ormazd.

Raikou got out his hammer and large drum, saying "Let us begin."

The room soon changed into the inside of a cumulonimbus cloud.

Raikou then beat his drum, and lightning bolts shot up and down between portions of the cloud. Ormazd was fortunate to not be struck by them, for the time being.

But then, Ormazd noticed something--just before Raikou struck his drum, there were glowing spots indicating where the lightning would come from. And the lightning never went horizontally or diagonally--only vertically. This knowledge gave Ormazd an advantage.

*I just need to move in before Raikou can catch me off guard,* he thought.

Ormazd then waited until some lightning cleared away before moving in to strike.

Raikou growled after the first blow.

"Very clever," said Raikou. "But I can adapt as well."

Raikou teleported away, and when he reappeared in another part of the storm, he resumed beating the drum to summon lightning.

Ormazd dodged the lightning, but before he could strike with his falchion, he saw Raikou prepare to swing his hammer at him.

"You didn't think I was just going to take hits, did you?" chuckled Raikou as he swung his hammer. Luckily, Ormazd got up his shield to block the blow, and then countered with another falchion slash. Again, Raikou roared in pain.

The thunder Pokémon teleported one more time. This time, aside from conjuring lightning, he would throw his hammer in-between drum beats. It functioned like a boomerang, so Ormazd had to dodge the tool as it went, and when it returned. One such return knocked the falchion out of his hand momentarily. He had to wait until a lightning bolt vanished before reaching for it again. The second time the hammer was sent sailing toward him, Ormazd blocked with his shield, following such action by leaping and doing a diagonal slash at Raikou, defeating him.

Raikou staggered backwards, then used his powers to heal his wounds.

"You have proven yourself, Ormazd," said Raikou. "You have earned my gem."

Waving his left hand, he made a gem, electric yellow in color, appear in midair. Ormazd plucked it out of the air.

"Place the gem in the middle gap of the falchion," said Raikou. Ormazd did so.

Raikou explained, "You now have my power in my blade. It will cause your sword to be endowed with the power of thunder."

Ormazd said, "Thank you, great Raikou. I shall use it well."

Raikou then reverted back to his non-anthropomorphic form, and leapt back onto his pedestal.

"The Three Trinities are with you," said Raikou, "and will give you power in your quest."

After saying those words, Raikou changed back into a statue.

Ormazd made his way back outside the temple. The guard from earlier had returned with the vehicle.

"You did it!" said the guard. "Raikou appeared to me in a vision, telling me you won."

Ormazd and the guard returned to Raikallium City. Sultan Riyad welcomed him back.

"Well done, Ormazd!" cheered Riyad.

"Thank you, sire," replied Ormazd.

Sultana Nyza said, "The next kingdom to go to next is Zapinium. Be careful, for the sultan there had been corrupted by Iblis-Mewtwo and turned him into a tyrant."

"I shall be alert," replied Ormazd.

The sultan's servants healed up Ormazd's wounds, and after spending a night in the sultan's palace, Ormazd got on his motorbike and drove off.

The people of Raikallium wished him well as he departed.

## Chapter 6: The Zapinium Revolution

The jungles of Poké-Arabia again echoed with wild Pokémon, wild animals, and the sounds of Ormazd's motorbike.

Pidgey and Taillow flew about, as did Aipom, Mankey, and Primeape, trying to get the Nanab Berries in the trees.

Of course, other fruits grew there as well, as the super-fertile soil of the jungle allowed for many fruits to grow there.

However, one long dead tree fell, almost striking Ormazd, but the brave Eevee accelerated to get out of the way before it could crush him.

"Boy," said Ormazd, "that was close!"

The Eevee continued on through the jungle, but some other Eevee natives in the jungle emerged with blowguns aimed at him. Because of the now-tyrannical sultan, some of the nomadic tribes within the jungle were distrustful of any strangers.

"Who are you?" said one of the native Eevee, a female here. "Tell us who you are!"

"I am Ormazd al-Bunaeon," Ormazd replied, "of the town of Oliveevee."

"That shield," said another female Eevee native. "And that cape! They are of the legendary hero of ages past!"

"Not just anyone would hold them and that sword!" said a male Eevee native. "This man was obviously chosen!"

"Perhaps," said the first female Eevee, "you can save Zapinium!"

"I am on my way to Zapinium City right now," said Ormazd.

"I must apologize for our abrupt attack," said the female Eevee. "Because of the sultan's corruption and present tyranny, we've become distrustful of any strangers that cross our path."

"Do not fear," said Ormazd. "His tyranny will not be for long."

Another male Eevee native point down the trail, saying "This is the shortest path to Zapinium City. Be warned--the sultan's men are trained soldiers."

"That's generally the case," said Ormazd.

The natives bade Ormazd farewell as his motorbike carried him further down the trail.

And it wasn't long until he approached the gates of that city.

The Eevee adventurer soon made it to Zapinium City.

The city was known for its grand theater for drama, musicals, and other genres. A good number of theater acts in the past was often to praise the guardian Pokémon, Zapdos.

Alas, after the corruption of the sultan, the only theater shown was anything flattering to the ruler.

Ormazd soon entered the city limits, but already some of the sultan's men emerged with their weapons drawn. Some had scimitars, others had rifles. All of them had Raticate ears and tails. Since they were not Ground-type, they'd easily be touched by the Electrical power on the sword blade. And the shield, even without any new powers on it, blocked the bullets easily.

One Raticate guard said, "That power! He must've gotten it from Raikou! Alert the sultan immediately!"

Ormazd fought each of the guards as they approached.

Some more guards, these ones Meowth guards, emerged to aid the attack. One of them even threw a gas

grenade at the Eevee hero before he could counter. Ormazd soon got dizzy and collapsed.

When Ormazd came too, he soon found himself in a dungeon cell. Near him was a man with Jolteon ears. He wore a green vest, white pants, gray sandals, and a red fez. His black hair and gray eyes showed amazement upon the new cellmate.

The Jolteon said, "I have overheard from the guards that you met with Raikou! Perhaps there is now hope to save our land!"

"Yes," said Ormazd, "I have met with Raikou. My name is Ormazd al-Bunaeon."

The Jolteon replied, "I am Vikaas bin-Raediaon. The sultan, Ya'qoob bin-Alnamar, was once a good ruler. But since the Iblis Mewtwo had tapped into his deepest dark desires, the realm of Zapinium has fallen into disarray."

"Well, we first need to escape," said Ormazd.

"Yes," said Vikaas, "I recall an escape tunnel during the days when the rulers needed to flee invaders, near our cell. Let us escape together."

"The mortar on the door is old," said Ormazd. "Maybe if we ram it together, we can escape."

"Yes," replied Vikaas, "and we should be able to get out of the dungeon before the guards come. Let's hit it together!"

Ormazd and Vikaas both shoulder-rammed the door, breaking out.

"Hurry," said Vikaas. "Here's the escape route!"

Ormazd got the sword, shield, cape, and other items, before following the Jolteon man out. They then closed it behind them, and Vikaas used his powers to light the way.

"The prisoners have escaped!" said one Meowth guard, not knowing of the escape tunnel!

"We must hunt them down!" said another guard, this one a Raticate.

Ormazd and Vikaas soon made it through the escape tunnel. It was sunset when they got to the streets.

"Follow me," said Vikaas. "I know a band of rebels dedicated to freeing this land!"

Ormazd followed the Jolteon man to a hidden old warehouse, where others were gathered.

"Friends," said Vikaas, "meet Ormazd al-Bunaeon, the one chosen by the Three Trinities!"

The other rebels looked in astonishment.

"Our freedom is now at hand," he continued. "Tonight, we shall attack to overthrow the tyrant!"

The rebels cheered. They soon went out to gather the rest of the people.

Night soon came over the land, and a first quarter moon could be seen.

The people of Zapinium City--those wishing to be freed--soon emerged, with weapons at the ready. The time had come to be free.

Some Vigoroth people--indicated by tufts of fur on their usual hair and their longer nails--brought out a battering ram to ram the gates.

One Meowth guard saw the people coming, and knew there was trouble.

"The people are revolting!" said the guard. "Alert the sultan!"

As soon as the gates were bashed in, the revolutionaries entered the palace. But those loyal to the tyrant also rushed forward to counter.

The war soon began. Clashes and gunshots were heard, and the occasional sounds of Pokémon techniques even emerged.

Some Electric types send out the lightning to strike some of the men. Others used Fire, Ice, and even the occasional Steel-type.

Vikaas said, "Follow me! I know where Sultan Ya'qoob bin-Alnamar is!"

Other rebels covered the pair's course as they went to find the enemy leader.

Outside the southeast tower's doors, the two saw the Captain of the Guard, who was also a Persian.

"Ah, so you've been causing the trouble here," said the captain. "Well, you will not reach him alive!"

The captain got out his scimitar and prepared for battle.

Vikaas sent out a Thunderbolt to knock him away from the doors.

"Go on!" said Vikaas. "Sultan Ya'qoob is behind those doors! I'll take the captain!"

Ormazd nodded and entered the doors, and went on.

The corrupted sultan stood up, his Persian ears and tail seemed to tremble in anger. His peach-tan skin sweating from the heat of battle, and his brown hair and brown eyes also showed the shock of being suddenly awakened. His robes were black and yellow, and his turban was tan-white with an orange-yellow gem in the center.

"Ah, welcome," said Sultan Ya'qoob. "Iblis Mewtwo had appeared to me in a vision, saying you plan to stop him. Well, you're not ending my fast track to permanent power here. Your adventure ends with me!"



At that, Sultan Ya'qoob gets out his scepter and casts the move Hyper Beam. Ormazd dodged the beam barely, as it hit a tapestry in the chamber.

Ormazd reached for his falchion and dashed forward with a thrust that injured the ruler as he was recovering from the beam.

"You are strong," said Ya'qoob, in spite of his pain. "But I am stronger still!"

The tyrannical Persian then used his Faint Attack, but Ormazd raised his shield to block the attack, since Faint Attack was impossible to dodge.

Ormazd then clashed his falchion against the sultan's scepter in a battle. When Ya'qoob raised the rod to strike, Ormazd quickly slashed with his blade, making another wound on the fiend.

"No more games, boy!" said the sultan. The tyrant then raised his scepter to use Hidden Power--this one a Fighting Type. Ormazd was injured from the attack, but he was able to make one last thrust, this one into Ya'qoob's heart.

The sultan yelled in pain one last time, and then fell over, limp.

The captain, mortally wounded from Vikaas' own attacks, also heard his liege fall before succumbing to the injuries himself.

Ormazd limped out the room victorious.

"Ormazd!" said Vikaas. "You did it!"

The enemy soldiers soon saw their leaders have fallen, and those who weren't slain fled and left the city.

At last, Zapinium City was free.

Ormazd stayed in the palace to recover. Some Delcatty maidens tended to the man's wounds, and people soon gathered to decide the new ruler.

After a while, Ormazd looked toward Vikaas and said, "Vikaas, my friend. The people need you even more now. They needed you when you were leader of the freedom fighters. Now they need you as the new ruler."

"They do?" Vikaas asked, rather surprised.

"I know so," said Ormazd.

Some Electrike men emerged, followers were among Vikaas' group.

"It was a pleasure serving alongside you in the war," said one of them, "and will be even more an honor to serve under your reign."

"As sultan," said another, "you can heal our kingdom from what happened."

"I..." said Vikaas, "I accept."

A new turban was made, and it was placed on Vikaas' head, replacing his former fez.

"Long live Sultan Vikaas bin-Raediaon!" said Ormazd.

"Long live Sultan Vikaas bin-Raediaon!" repeated the crowd.

Later that day, Vikaas emerged wearing his new sultan clothes. The people outside cheered. He made a relatively short but sweet speech, instilling hope and joy to the people of Zapinium City, further assuring them that better days were coming.

The next day, Ormazd prepared his motorbike and prepared to leave.

Sultan Vikaas emerged to him.

"I heard you are heading to the Tower of Zapdos," said Vikaas.

"Yes, Your Excellence," replied Ormazd.

"I found this in the treasury," said Vikaas. "It is the key to the Tower of Zapdos. Thought I'd spare you the trouble of hunting for it."

"Thank you, sire," said Ormazd as he accepted the key.

"The Tower of Zapdos is north and a little west of here," said Vikaas. "The heavens be in your favor, friend."

"May they indeed," replied Ormazd. "Let us meet again someday."

Sultan Vikaas waved farewell as Ormazd zoomed off to his next destination.

## Chapter 7: The Tower of Zapdos

The road to the Tower of Zapdos proved to be relatively short, and Ormazd arrived there in only a couple of minutes.

The Tower of Zapdos looked like a yellowish-white tower pointing upward, almost spiral-like in shape. At the very top, Ormazd could see the lightning bolts of Zapdos circling about it.

However, reaching the tower was the easy part. The truly challenges lay inside.

Ormazd inserted the key into the lock. Both the lock and the key vanished into dust.

The tower doors opened.

Ormazd prepared himself and entered the tower.

Once inside, the doors shut behind Ormazd.

"Welcome inside the tower, young one," said a tenor male voice. "I know from Raikou that you met with his challenges. Now I, Zapdos, shall test your worthiness. I have prepared three major puzzles. Each time you succeed, you'll find a special elevator that will allow you up to the higher levels. Let me see your prowess!"

"I am ready for any challenge!" replied Ormazd.

Steps of yellow crystal formed, leading Ormazd up to the first challenge. The Eevee boy ascended the staircase to the first puzzle.

Upon the platform was a table with a puzzle of wires. The runes read:

"Only one tile can be moved at a time.

"The objective is to make the tiles so the path of wires can lead from the generator to the spherical bulb.

"Can you make it work?"

Ormazd had his share of sliding tile puzzles as a child, but he had the patience and wisdom to make it work.

So, at once, he started to slide each puzzle, thinking carefully how to set it. He only had to backtrack once, but within a quarter of an hour, he was able to make the wire path connect between the generator and the bulb.

The bulb lit brightly, and something soon hummed-- Ormazd turned and saw the elevator forming out of electricity and light. It soon solidified into a crystalline upward shaft. Inside was the platform to ascend on.

"You have shown patience and wisdom, young hero," said the voice of Zapdos. "Now, ascend up the elevator to prepare for the next test."

Ormazd ran through the entrance and rode up the elevator. It was swift, but not so much as to be a safety risk.

The elevator soon arrived midway through the tower. The stairways would've taken an adventurer too long, and Zapdos took that into account, so he prepared the elevators to speed the journey of those worthy.

The second challenge had floating tiles over a "lake" of fluid-like light. From time to time, lightning would strike on some tiles to make them momentarily disappear.

"Take your time to study the layout," said the voice of Zapdos, "and take your chance when you are ready."

Ormazd looked carefully at the challenge before him. Then, he noticed something.

A tile would glow about three seconds before a lightning bolt struck it. When the tile is struck, it took about five seconds to regenerate.

The lightning bolts came three at most at a time.

And the lightning bolts never struck close to a spot from where previous tiles disappeared. That is, there is always safe ground near a disappeared tile.

With this knowledge, Ormazd prepared to take his steps.

The Eevee hero raced across the platforms, and either stopped before lightning struck a tile, or hurried off it if his tile was about to be struck.

Eventually, he made it to the goal--a statue representing a non-anthropomorphic Zapdos.

The storm within the floor calmed, and the puzzle soon became a fully tiled floor.

Another elevator appeared in the same way as the previous. Ormazd again entered the elevator, and it went upward.

The elevator, this time, took Ormazd all the way to the roof.

He stepped out, and at first, the sky was clear, but clouds gathered and darkened in just minutes.

Lightning flashed about, and thunder rumbled.

Soon, a large lightning bolt struck the very center of the roof.

The light from the lightning soon formed into a man dressed in a spiky crown; a robe in yellow and light gray; and a cape of spike-like yellow feathers.

Sure enough, this was Zapdos.

"Welcome, Ormazd al-Bunaeon," said Zapdos. "I know why you are here. Yes, all of us, of the Three Trinities, are aware that Iblis-Mewtwo has risen again. We have all prepared these challenges to test your worthiness, because these challenges shall also prepare you for the battle to come. You

will need all the practice and training you can get to battle the fiend."

Ormazd prepared the sword and shield, saying "I am ready, Zapdos. For the sake of my beloved Saamayah, I will not let Poké-Arabia fall into Iblis-Mewtwo's foul grasp!"

"Then let us begin," said Zapdos. He conjured up a spear, pulsating with electricity, and the spearhead resembled Zapdos' head, only made of divine metal.

Zapdos then dashed toward Ormazd, but he barely dodged. The Eevee then did a slash, but then dodged again after his opponent recovered and charged again.

"You are doing very good, young man," said Zapdos. "But I can adapt as well!"

The humanoid version of Zapdos then raised his spear upward, causing lightning to surge down. The electricity then flowed on the roof flooring, and Ormazd barely had enough time to leap out of the way.

"Excellent reflexes!" said Zapdos with a laugh. "Keep exercising them, as you'll really need to think on your feet when you encounter the fiend himself!"

The electric legendary then pointed the spear at Ormazd, and fired a sphere of electricity at him. Ormazd barely got his shield up in time. While it did make him feel sore, the attack was not life-threatening. Ormazd then charged forward, and swatted the spear away, disarming Zapdos.

The lightning stopped flashing. The rumbles of thunder ceased.

The clouds soon broke away, and the sky cleared.

"You win, Ormazd," said Zapdos. "You are worthy to have my power."

Zapdos then reached upon his person and plucked off one of his feathers.

"Place this on your cape, in the center dot," he said.

Ormazd then did so. It hung like a medal or contest award ribbon on the cape.

"With this," said Zapdos, "you'll be able to run faster. Remember this, for there are occasions where you'll need speed."

"I shall remember," said Ormazd. "Thank you, Zapdos."

"The Three Trinities are with you," said Zapdos. "And they shall empower you to victory."

Zapdos then snapped his fingers, and a small cumulus cloud appeared.

"Hop on," said Zapdos. "This cloud will take you down safely."

"Thank you again," said Ormazd with a smile.

The cloud swiftly yet gently took the Eevee boy back down to the bottom of the tower. Afterwards, it just gently dissipated, until it would be summoned again by the legendary being.

Ormazd soon returned to Zapinium City, and purchased a room at the inn.

"Where will you be going next," said the female Espeon innkeeper.

"Well," answered Ormazd, "I think the next stop is Rhubrock City. If my guess is correct, it's close to where the legendary Regirock is located."

"Very wise decision," said the innkeeper. "The sultan there surely can get you there. He has thus far been able to resist the temptations of Iblis-Mewtwo."



"I can only hope he keeps resisting," replied Ormazd.  
"One corrupted sultan is enough. We don't need another one to fall to the arch demon's deceptions."

"So true," the innkeeper giggled. Then she said, "Sweet dreams, hero."

"Thank you," replied Ormazd as he paid the innkeeper.  
"Good night."

Ormazd then went to his room to rest for the night, and prepare for the next part of his journey.

While Ormazd rested in Zapinium City, Saamayah visited the shrine in BokeBlyttia Town.

Right behind the altar was a tapestry of the Three Trinities, protecting the world Poké-Arabia was in, and providing blessings to those who were righteous.

Saamayah knelt before the altar, and began whispering a prayer.

"Oh, great Trinities," she prayed, "you have the power to save us all from Iblis-Mewtwo's bane. And I truly know and believe in my heart that you have chosen Ormazd to be your instrument of justice. Please, protect him, guide him to victory, and if it is your pleasure, return him to us safely."

She then bowed, and after she got up, lit some incense upon the altar's incense bowl.

Then she arose and went back to her home and inn, and went to sleep for the night.

## Chapter 8: Trouble in Rhubrock City

The sun rose the next day, and Ormazd mounted his motorcycle.

The innkeeper exited, in her robe, saying "The city of Rhubrock is northeast of here. This major trail will be the shortest route. But be careful--rumor has it that there is a criminal gang causing trouble there."

"At least it isn't a tyrannical sultan this time," chuckled Ormazd. "Farewell, innkeeper, and thank you."

The motorcycle soon hummed to life as it rode off.

The people of Zapinium City cheered and waved to Ormazd as he passed by, and some gave well wishes for the journey.

Once again, the Eevee man rode through the jungles of Poké-Arabia.

A few more Tropius flew above the sky, and some Butterfree and Beedrill were pollinating some flowers to cause them to become fruits for the Pokémon, animals, and people to feast on. And the fruits would have seeds to carry on the next generation of those plants.

Ormazd found a ripe Citrus Berry, picked it, and ate.

"Very delicious," sighed Ormazd contently. "I need all the energy I need for my quest."

After his snack, he continued on his bike down the trail.

However, it would not be long until the hero would find trouble.

A group of criminal Poochyena morphs emerged from hiding. This gang of Poochyena were different from the gang

encountered in Raikallium City, as indicated by their garb. But they were still nevertheless a danger to be reckoned with.

"Hey!" said one male Poochyena. "That's the one who busted up our allied gang in Raikallium City!"

"You've caused quite a lot of trouble for them and us!" said his female companion.

"Indeed!" said Ormazd. "I am assuming you are among the criminals who are causing trouble in Rhubrock right now!"

"You better believe it," said the female, doing a sultry pose before reaching for her whip. Her boyfriend--if indeed he could be called that--reached for his spear. Two more male Poochyena criminals emerged with their daggers.

Ormazd got off his bike and prepared himself for battle.

The female cracked her whip, but Ormazd activated the electrical power of the Raikou Gem in his sword. The jolt traveled down the whip and knocked the bad woman unconscious.

The two dagger-wielding foes charged, but Ormazd sent out the electricity in a wave, knocking the daggers out of their hands.

The spear wielding enemy charged, but Ormazd got his shield up just in time to block, and then swung his sword to disarm him.

The first male scooped up his darling and shouted, "We gotta get out of here and tell the boss!"

"Right!" the other two males said as they got their daggers and retreated.

"Sounds like they'll be expecting me," said Ormazd as he put away his armaments and got back on his motorcycle. "I'd best prepare for anything."

The motorcycle then started, and the hero traveled down the trail to Rhubrock City.

Soon, the structures of Rhubrock City came into view. The trek took only about an hour and a quarter-hour.

"Here we are!" cheered Ormazd. He soon found a good parking spot and got off.

Rhubrock City gained its fame from being a master mining city. The Cavern of Regirock nearby providing the power to its mines to have plenty of minerals and jewels, provided the caverns used as mines were given time to rest and regain its resources, that they may not end up exhausted.

Even the building materials contained the magic of Regirock, as they were the best in the realm. The mortar, brick, building stone, and others were often used to build other cities in the land, as were other materials from other lands.

However, the city had fallen into disrepair in some parts, as the criminal gang had made work and leisure in the city dangerous. Even the sultan's own men struggled to keep the criminals in check.

Ormazd made his way toward the palace, but the criminals he encountered earlier had recovered from their previous defeat, and brought reinforcements with them.

The female, recovered from her unconsciousness, said, "You better be shaking. We brought more of the gang to deal with you."

Some gang members had close range weapons, like knives, metal pipes, brass knuckles, and others.

Other criminals had tommy guns and pistols.

All of them were preparing to ensure Ormazd does not loosen their grasp on Rhubrock.

The gunners began shooting, but Ormazd's shield protected him well.

He slowly yet surely approached, and when he was in range, Ormazd waited for a break in the fire and sent out an electrical wave at the enemy.

The electrical wave destroyed the firearms of those that shot at the hero.

Some of the Poochyena goons with metal pipes raced toward him, but Ormazd's sword, even without the electrical charge, showed that he would not fall so easily. The blade cut the pipes quickly.

"Who is this guy?!" said the female Poochyena's boyfriend.

"That gem on the blade!" the female replied. "It must be the Gem of Raikou! One of the surviving members of the gang in Raikallium told me of the legend! Could he be...?"

"We gotta get to the palace!" the boyfriend said. "The boss needs to know!"

"Keep him busy!" said the female. "We need to buy the boss some time!"

At once, those outside the palace began to gang up on him.

The ones with brass knuckles lunged first. Ormazd, being sporting, put the sword and shield away, and just used his fisticuffs against them. The Eevee dodged their punches and countered with punches of his own.

Soon, other criminals charged. There were more with metal pipes, who did not lose theirs in the initial phase of the battle. Others had their knives, swords, and other close-range weapons, as the guns had been damaged, or they were not

brought out for fear they'd be taken out by a wave of electricity from the Raikou Gem as well.

But in any case, Ormazd was prepared. The training he had with the battles with Raikou and Zapdos had prepared him for this. He battled these enemies with all his might. Soon the remaining forces outside the palace dispersed.

One of the palace guards approached with some supplies. The guard was a man with Raichu ears and a tail, and was dressed as one would expect an Arabian royal guard to dress.

"Here, friend," said the guard. "You will need to regain your strength."

Ormazd was surprised a member of the royal guard addressed him, but he knew not to look a gift Rapidash in the mouth.

"Thank you, guard," he said. He accepted a lemonade which replenished the stamina that drained him.

"The sultan needs your help," said the guard. "The leader of the criminals is holding him and his family prisoner."

"Sounds quite similar to what happened back in Raikallium City," said Ormazd, "but I am prepared to aid this city!"

The guard then guided him into the palace.

The Rhubrock Palace was made of strong yet beautiful marble. On one hand, it had some similarities to the palace in Raikallium City, but on the other hand, there were similarities that made it stand out. The palace was made like an Ancient Persian Empire palace, but with special gardens to match the jungles in which the city was situated.

The windows of the palace were stained glass, and glistened in various colors.

But it was not the time for sightseeing. Ormazd had a mission right now--to save the royal family, and all of Rhubrock, from a criminal mastermind.

"This way," said the guard. "I know the route to the throne room.

Ormazd trusted the guard, and followed him.

The guard used his spare key to open the throne room.

The inside had ornate jungle wood, gold lining, and beautiful brown stones. It almost had the color of sunset on a good day.

But the beautiful sight was marred with the appearance of the criminal leader, a Mightyena. The male and female Poochyena encountered earlier held the sultan and his wife captive. The two royals were humans with some features indicating they were also Electrike.

"So, you must be the man causing my gang trouble," said the Mightyena.

"Yes," said Ormazd, bravely. "I am Ormazd al-Bunaeon, of Oliveevee Town."

"You're the one who disbanded our friends' gang in Raikallium, are you not?" the leader said.

"Yes indeed," replied Ormazd.

"Well," said the leader, getting out his assault rifle, "I shall avenge our allies and ensure you don't cause us any more trouble." He turned to his two companions and said, "Get the royals out of the way. I don't want them hurt--they're our bargaining chips, after all."

The two nodded and took the captives to another part of the palace.

"Shall we begin?" the leader said with a cruel grin.

Ormazd prepared his sword and shield. The guard also prepared his scimitar, for he too wanted to save his beloved monarch.

"We are both ready," said Ormazd.

The criminal kingpin then began to fire at them. Ormazd prepared his shield, blocking most of the fire.

The Raichu guard then channeled his electricity into his scimitar and channeled it upward, sending down lightning bolts. But most of the lightning missed, and the criminal laughed as he kept firing.

The guard then had an idea.

When there was a break in the shooting, the guard said, "Quick, Ormazd, shield your eyes!"

Ormazd then shut his eyes tight.

The Raichu then used Flash to momentarily blind the fiend.

"Blast you!" shouted the enemy leader.

"Hurry!" said the guard. "While he's blinded!"

Ormazd nodded and ran up to the enemy. With one thrust, he mortally wounded the Mightyena. While under normal circumstances he disliked having to take a life, he felt there was no other choice here.

The two Poochyena soon saw their leader slain. After letting go the sultan and sultana, the two announce their leader's death, and the gang then scattered and fled.

"Let them go," said Ormazd. "We cannot convince an entire army to surrender, but we can convince individuals to do so. It's best to show mercy when possible."

"Well said," said the sultan.

The sultan, Haafiz bin Hdyraleasifa, stepped forward to Ormazd. His wife, Ulfah, also stepped up. Haafiz had brown hair and green eyes. Ulfah had violet-black hair and violet eyes.



Both had tan skin, and wore attire befitting of rulers of a city made wealthy from the mining industry. And as stated earlier, they had features of Electrike as well.

"Thank you, hero, for saving us," said Haafiz.

"We owe you our lives," said Ulfah. "Is it true you saved our friend in Raikallium?"

"Indeed, majesties," said Ormazd bowing before them.

"The gem on your sword," said Ulfah. "Indeed, it is the gem of Raikou."

"And I think I noticed your cape, young man," added Haafiz. "Clearly you have the feather of Zapdos upon it."

"Yes," said Ormazd.

"We can only guess you are heading toward the Cavern of Regirock soon," said Haafiz.

Haafiz then reached into his pocket and gave Ormazd a key.

"Here, Ormazd," said Ulfah as her husband handed Ormazd the key. "It is the key to the cavern. It is there you will find Regirock."

"The cavern is east and a little south of the city," said Haafiz.

"I know the way, sire," said the guard. "I shall take him there."

"Good, Dahhak," said Haafiz. Dahhak was the name of the guard, and it was at this point Ormazd learned his friend's name for the first time.

## Chapter 9: The Cavern of Regirock

Dahhak soon brought Ormazd to a special jeep.

"It is all right, Ormazd," said the guard. "I have some of my fellow guards getting your motorcycle to bring to the palace, so it won't be stolen."

"Thank you," said Ormazd as he got into the vehicle.

The jeep soon escorted the Eevee man through the streets of Rhubrock. And the people cheered as they saw the two pass through the streets.

The cityscape soon gave way to the jungles once again.

As the two traveled, Dahhak decided to get to know Ormazd a bit better.

"If this isn't too personal a question," said Dahhak, "do you have a beloved?"

"I do indeed," replied Ormazd. "Her name is Saamayah al-Qarfavee."

"She's the one who tends to the inn in PokeBlyttia Town, if I remember correctly," said Dahhak.

"You've been to PokeBlyttia before?" Ormazd asked in curiosity.

"Oh yes," said Dahhak. "I one time visited there when I had some time off. Very peaceful."

"Smaller towns tend to be," said Ormazd.

The two had some small talk until they reached the entrance to the Cavern of Regirock.

The entrance to the cavern was within a small stone hill. The archway serving as the door frame was made of granite, sandstone, and marble--one sample of each category of rock.

Ormazd approached the large gates, and inserted the key.

The Eevee's hand turned the key slowly. The lock clicked open and fell.

The gates opened wide.

"Go on ahead," said Dahhak. "I'll watch for you while you're inside. I have faith you'll make it through!"

"Thank you," said Ormazd as he entered.

The interior of the Cavern of Regirock looked both natural and man-made at the same time, as on one hand, it looked like a cavern made naturally, but some parts looked like the inside of an Egyptian pyramid or some ancient temple. There were even hieroglyphs within the walls of the cavern to indicate that in reality its origins were supernatural.

A low, yet inviting, male voice spoke.

"Welcome, Ormazd al-Bunaeon," said the voice. "I am Regirock. I know why you are here. Raikou and Zapdos had informed me of your arrival, and your mission. I have prepared three challenges for you, to prepare you for what is to come, and so you may earn my gem."

"I am prepared, Regirock," replied Ormazd.

"Good," said the voice of Regirock. "Follow this tunnel down, and we may begin the first trial for you."

Some glowing crystals, serving as torches, lit the way for the Eevee adventurer down the tunnel.

Footsteps echoed as Ormazd went down the tunnel. He soon entered a large room filled with statues.

The voice of Regirock spoke:

"One of these is different from the rest. And that different one has the key to open the door to the next tunnel."

"An interesting puzzle," said Ormazd. "Let me see if I can find it."

Ormazd looked at the statues carefully.

There were five statues on the other side.

The first was a female Nidoran. The second, a Golduck. The third, a Tauros. The fourth, a Clefairy. The fifth, an Ursaring.

He thought for a few minutes, and then the answer came.

Four of them were of the same "breeding group", but one of them was not. The one that stood out was the Clefairy.

Ormazd then approached the statue of the Clefairy and touched it. It moved back, revealing a button in the floor. Ormazd touched it with his foot.

The door on the other side of the room opened.

"Very good," the voice of Regirock spoke. "You found the one that was different from the rest. Proceed to the next chamber."

Ormazd then traveled through the door and down the next tunnel.

While Ormazd was traveling to the next part of the cavern, another town would soon suffer at the hands of Iblis-Mewtwo.

Seidlitzia Port, the port city on the coast of the jungle portion of Poké-Arabia, was about to continue its day.

Seidlitzia Port served as the port city of trade to the rest of the world. Various wares traded hands between Poké-Arabia and other nations at this harbor.

But soon, the vision of Iblis-Mewtwo appeared in the sky over the waters.

"So, mortals," mocked the arch demon. "Prepare to know the agony of my power!"

The vision form raised his hands, and magenta lightning pulsed from them.

Various ships docked there were damaged, and some even sank. Thankfully, the crew had gotten off.

Some more lightning struck, and the piers were badly splintered.

Iblis-Mewtwo cackled at his work as his image faded from the sky.

Back in the Cavern of Regirock, Ormazd soon made it to the second chamber, and his second challenge.

In the center of the large stone chamber was a large crystal pyramid. The corners pointed to the four cardinal directions of north, south, west, and east.

The voice of Regirock spoke again:

"There is a riddle in the chamber that tells you where to place certain gemstones. Study it, and see if you can figure out the puzzle."

Some light crystals shone to reveal a placard showing a riddle:

"Teal is the symbol of sunrise.

"Blue indicates midday.

"Red implies sunset.

"Violet represents midnight."

Ormazd looked at the chamber again, as there were symbols indicating which direction led to where.

And Ormazd looked at the pyramid again.

If sunrise implied the east, and if one were to go clockwise, the order of gemstones made sense.

Ormazd placed the teal stone on the east point, the blue on the south point, the red on the west point, and the violet on the north point.

The pyramid soon glowed and sank.

The door on the other side also opened up.

"You have correctly solved the riddle," said the voice of Regirock. "It was actually two riddles in one, both implying time."

Ormazd then went down the newly opened door, prepared for the next challenge.

The tunnel soon gave way to a chamber that looked like the inner sanctuary of an ancient temple.

The columns looked like a mix between natural cavern columns, and those found in such sacred buildings.

Tapestries hung on the walls depicting the same Braille-like markings on Regirock.

In the center of the chamber, upon a stony yet articulate throne, sat a humanoid in rock-like armor. He had pale tan skin, and gray eyes. Some of his brown hair was under the helmet with the Regirock marking. Surely enough, this was Regirock himself, or at least an incarnation of said Pokémon.

"Welcome, Ormazd," said Regirock as he rose from his throne. "I, Regirock, am impressed at how you are able to solve my riddles. But then, you have shown that skill with the other two Legendaries in the jungle region. Now, it is my turn to give you a training battle, to prepare you for the battle with Iblis-Mewtwo."

Ormazd prepared the sword and shield. Regirock prepared a giant stone hammer.

"Prepare yourself!" said Regirock as he charged toward Ormazd.

The Eevee dodged just in time, as his opponent came down with a swift swing. The impact rumbled and made the room shake.

Regirock lumbered a bit, and Ormazd was able to make a few quick slashes from time to time. But soon, the giant stone legendary prepared another charging attack, and Ormazd again dodged just in the nick of time.

But Ormazd noticed that the charging attacks were the only times that Regirock showed much speed. And there was a cue that indicated when Regirock would charge--a facial expression that showed a mix of cheerfulness and anger. Otherwise, he tended to be slow.

With this knowledge, Ormazd was able to go on the offense. As soon as Regirock made his face, the Eevee dodged. He then struck when his opponent missed his hammer swing.

Eventually, Regirock knelt, exhausted.

"You have won, Ormazd," said Regirock. "You have studied my attack pattern enough to know how to best me. Be warned, though. Iblis-Mewtwo may not give warnings so readily."

The stone Legendary Pokémon then waved his hand, conjuring up a tan gemstone, which appeared onto Ormazd's shield.

"You now have my gemstone," said Regirock. "With its power, it will increase your defense against physical attacks. But you will still need to be wary against magical ones, until you find the gemstone of one of my companions."

"I shall remember," said Ormazd. "Thank you, Regirock."

"I shall now transport you back to the entrance," said Regirock. "The Three Trinities are with you, and shall give you the power to save Poké-Arabia."

Light shone down on Ormazd. When he could see again, he was outside, and he saw Dahhak waiting for him in the jeep.

"I see you have gained the Gem of Regirock," said Dahhak with cheer. "Let us return to Rhubrock City, for I am certain Sultan Haafiz has something to aid you on your journey."

Ormazd then joined the guard in his jeep, and the two traveled back to the city.

Dahhak soon escorted Ormazd to the sultan and sultana.

"Majesties," said Ormazd, "I've visited Regirock and gained his gemstone."

The two applauded.

"Wonderful," said Sultan Haafiz.

"You did well!" said Sultana Ulfah.

"Your next stop should be Seidlitzia Port," said the sultan, unaware of Iblis-Mewtwo's attack on the location.

"Oh dear," said Ulfah. "That's quite a ways from here."

"It is well, my love," replied Haafiz. "While Ormazd was away, I had some of the royal mechanics upgrade his motorcycle. It is now an airbike."

"An airbike?" asked Ormazd, curious.

"Yes," replied the benevolent ruler. "I've made it into a motorcycle that flies. It will get you there much more quickly."

"Thank you, sire," said Ormazd.

"Here," said Dahhak. "Let me take you to where your ride is."

Dahhak then escorted Ormazd to the landing pad. Ormazd looked in amazement at what his motorcycle had become. The wheels had been replaced with special engines.

"I've even included a computer map of the realm," said one of the mechanics, a Pikachu man in a scientist attire. "Its special GPS will help you find your next destinations."



"Much obliged," said Ormazd. He then turned on the map, and saw the route to Seidlitzia Port.

"Farewell," said Dahhak. "And safe journey!"

Ormazd saluted the guard as he prepared to take off. The new airbike lifted off, and went above the canopy of the jungle. Some Spearow and Fearow soon saw their new visitor in the sky, as Ormazd flew to the northwest.

The Eevee looked down briefly, seeing the verdant jungle beneath him.

"Quite a great view!" said Ormazd. "I may have to include a sidecar sometime, so Saamayah could ride with me and enjoy it too."

Soon, his attention returned to traveling to Seidlitzia Port, but he was not prepared for what was there.

Ormazd gasped in shock when he arrived at the port town.

The ship wreckage was being salvaged, and the piers still smoked from the attack.

After landing his airbike someplace safe, Ormazd went to one of the locals.

"What happened here?!" Ormazd asked in concern.

"Iblis-Mewtwo attacked," said one of the locals. "His image appeared in the sky, and he attacked the port!"

"Oh no!" Ormazd said. "I came here to head out to sea for more of my quest, and it seems it is delayed."

"Perhaps there can be more aid in the desert," suggested another local. "One of the roads connecting the jungle region to the desert region is near PokeBlyttia Town."

"I shall go there next, then," replied Ormazd. He also thought it would be best to meet his beloved Saamayah again while there.

One of the town's governing council approached. He was a peach-orange skinned person with black hair and green eyes, and dressed in an Arabian coastal attire, yet still befitting one of authority. And he had Umbreon ears and a tail.

"Come with me," said the council member. "I shall get you to a special airship, as well as have your airbike brought to it as well. The airship will get you back to PokeBlyttia much quicker."

"I am thankful, sir," replied Ormazd.

The council member paid for Ormazd's ticket, and arranged for the airbike to be loaded onto it as well.

The airship soon lifted off, and made its way to an airstrip not far from PokeBlyttia. The trip took only an hour and a quarter hour to get there, but it was almost sunset when Ormazd arrived.

The hero soon saw his beloved again outside the inn.

"Ormazd, you're back!" said Saamayah. The two embraced and kissed. She then continued, "I heard what had happened in Seidlitzia Port."

"One of the people there suggested I go through the desert area instead," said Ormazd. "I know more of the Three Trinities are found there."

"Please, my love," said Saamayah, "you should rest first. It may be a while before we meet again, so let us spend some time together before you continue your adventure."

Ormazd just smiled.

Saamayah prepared a supper for her love, and before Ormazd checked into his room, Saamayah even performed another dance for him and those in attendance.

"Good night, dear hero," said Saamayah.

"Sleep well, my darling," replied Ormazd.

The two kissed again before the man went into his room for the night. Likewise, Saamayah, after all the other guests checked in, went into her room to rest.

The next day, one of the locals showed Ormazd the trail leading to the desert region.

Saamayah also prepared some canteens filled with a special water that helped hydrate better than regular water alone.

Ormazd bid his beloved and the locals farewell as his bike soon went down the path.

It was not long before the jungle thinned, and the heat and dry sands of the desert came to him.

## Chapter 10: The Growlithe Desert Bandits

The sands of the desert kicked up as the airbike rode over them.

But it wasn't long until the heat started to get to both Ormazd and his ride.

"I'd better find an oasis soon," said Ormazd, "or both I AND the airbike will overheat!"

Luckily, one oasis was within a few minutes' reach, and the vehicle soon rested there.

Ormazd soon got to a canteen that was in the airbike's compartment, and filled it up.

After refilling, he looked up and saw a wanderer also visiting the oasis.

The wanderer was a light tan skinned man with black hair, gray eyes, and wore only pants and boots. But there was a satchel on his back.

He also had Rattata ears and a tail.

The wanderer looked up and saw Ormazd, as well as his airbike.

"That's quite a ride you have," said the wanderer.

"Thank you, sir," replied Ormazd.

"You know," said the wanderer, "the desert heat can really mess up a ride like that. I can upgrade it and give it special coolant that lasts much longer."

"You can do that?" Ormazd asked with wonder.

"Indeed," said the wanderer.

Ormazd then opened up the airbike's engine, and the wanderer set to work. He also included the coolant he

mentioned. While it was fluid, it was also gel-like, so it can last longer.

Soon, the hood of the airbike closed.

"A bit of a warning, friend," said the wanderer. "There is a group of nasty Growlithe desert bandits roaming about. Their Arcanine leader is said to be quite the savage!"

"I'll be on the lookout," said Ormazd. "Thank you."

The wanderer just nodded to the Eevee man and ventured off. After a bit, Ormazd continued on his way.

The coolant worked as the person said it would, and the airbike continued for much longer. Ormazd checked the map on the airbike, and another oasis was nearby, not too far from Enteinium City, which was Ormazd's next major destination.

The oasis there had a caravan, but the people there were in fear. It did not take long for Ormazd to see what had the people intimidated.

The Growlithe bandits that the wanderer warned of earlier were about, plundering the caravan.

Ormazd prepared his sword and shield, and leapt in.

"Away from those people, villains!" said Ormazd.

The desert bandits turned and saw Ormazd.

"You should've let us be, interloper!" said one bandit.

"Now you will pay for your intrusion with your life!" said another.

The desert bandits then charged toward Ormazd; their scimitars ready.

Ormazd's falchion glowed with the power of Raikou, and he swung at them. The electrical pulses of the gem sent out orbs and waves of electricity, damaging them, and even stunning a few.

The feather of Zapdos also allowed Ormazd to run faster than his adversaries, allowing him to hit and run on them.

And the power of Regirock allowed his shield to block blows if he could not dodge them.

When many of the desert bandits fell, the Arcanine leader emerged.

The leader's skin was medium tan. He had brown hair and brown eyes. His Arcanine ears were covered by his turban. But his Arcanine tail was still visible. He wore yellow baggy pants, black boots, and a vest of fire colors and stripes of a natural Arcanine.

"What is the trouble here?!" said the Arcanine leader.

One of the remaining bandits said, "He's the one running us ragged, sir!"

"Causing trouble for my gang, eh?" said the leader. He then got out a flaming broadsword and said, "You should've backed off when you had the chance! Now I'll barbecue you from the inside out!"

"I think not!" replied Ormazd, with his falchion glowing from the gem of Raikou.

The two dashed toward each other and clashed blades. The blades' beats echoed through the desert.

"Who are you and what business have you?" asked the leader.

"I am Ormazd al-Bunaeon," replied Ormazd. "I am on a mission to gather the power of the Three Trinities and defeat Iblis-Mewtwo. You're just simply in the way by causing trouble for innocents!"

The leader's face was shocked upon hearing this. This delay was all that the hero needed. With a charged-up attack,

he did an upward swing that sent out a pillar of lightning, electrocuting the enemy leader.

When the bandits saw their leader fallen, they scattered.

The caravan cheered as they emerged.

"Thank you for saving us," said the caravan leader. The caravan leader had almond skin, brown hair with a beard, and gray eyes. He was dressed in a robe and turban, and also had Eevee ears and a tail.

"I had to," replied Ormazd.

"You said you were seeking the power of the Three Trinities," continued the caravan leader.

"Indeed," Ormazd replied again. "I'm on my way to Enteinium City, for I hear one of them is nearby."

"Ah," said the caravan leader. "I am sure the sultan there would love to meet you as well." He then pointed down a direction and said, "Going that way will be the shortest path to that city. You should be able to get there before sundown."

"I thank you, good sir," replied Ormazd as he got back onto his airbike.

"No," said the leader. "It is we who thank you."

The caravan waved farewell as Ormazd again zoomed off.

## Chapter 11: Entei's Challenge

It was almost sunset when Ormazd finally arrived at Enteinium City.

The center of the city had a magical endless fountain--as did the other two cities within the desert part of Poké-Arabia. Another claim to fame in the city was its special forces training facility, where the military of the realm trained. Soldiers from the desert cities, the jungle cities, and even those on the islands trained to improve themselves, that they may defend the realm from invaders and even trouble from within. Alas, it didn't help much against the fiend, Iblis-Mewtwo.

Another location there was the tomb of the sultan's wife, who tragically passed away a few years before Ormazd's adventure. It was located just near the palace, so the sultan may visit and pay his respects to his late love every day that he could.

Since the sun was starting to descend, Ormazd visited the inn and purchased a room. After a brief supper, he turned in for the night.

While Ormazd rested, however, one of the guards, who saw him enter the city, went to his liege.

"Sire," said the guard. The guard was a man with Vulpix ears and six tails.

"What is it?" said the sultan. He was a man with Arcanine ears and a tail, but on the side of good, unlike the desert bandits.

"I saw the man," said the guard. "I saw the one who defeated the desert bandits."

"You did?" the sultan asked in surprise. "Where is he?"



"He is currently resting in the inn on the east side of the city," answered the guard.

"Well," the sultan said in cheer, "tomorrow, escort him to the palace. For I have heard rumors of what his mission is."

"Yes, my lord," answered the guard. He too retired for the night.

The next day, Ormazd exited the inn, only to meet the Vulpix guard.

"Are you Ormazd?" asked the guard.

Slightly surprised, he replied, "Yes sir, I am."

"The sultan sent me to escort you to the palace," said the guard. "He has heard how you had dealt with the desert bandits, and has heard rumors of a special mission you have."

Ormazd followed the guard to the palace. He then saw one of his fellow guards--this one with Ponyta style mane and tail--and asked, "Where is the sultan?"

The other guard replied, "He is at the tomb of his wife within the garden."

The first guard nodded. He then looked to Ormazd and said, "Follow me. I can guide you there through the shortest route."

There were many flowering trees and shrubs within the palace garden, watered by a magical fountain that also provided water for the rest of the city.

Near the heart of the garden was the tomb of the late queen.

Kneeling before the door was the sultan, Nooruzzaman al-Barkanyunbih. He was dressed in a sultan turban and in regal clothes, colored in colors of red, gold, and tan. He knelt before the door inscribed with the name of the long-departed sultana, Pakeezah.

"Sire," said the guard.

The sultan rose up. He then turned around to face his loyal servant.

"I have brought the one you spoke of," the guard continued.

"Ah," said Sultan Nooruzzaman. "You must be Ormazd. You've made quite a name for yourself."

"Yes, sire," replied Ormazd. "I am pleased to meet you."

The sultan said, "I've been told you are seeking to unite the power of the Three Trinities to stop Iblis-Mewtwo. I, Sultan Nooruzzaman al-Barkanyunbih, give you the key to the Temple of Entei, which is just northwest of the city."

The sultan reached into a pocket of his cloak, and gave Ormazd the key.

"Thank you, your greatness," said Ormazd.

"I shall take him to the temple, sire," said the guard.

Ormazd then followed the guard to his own vehicle, a special jeep that could traverse sand as well as solid pavement.

"I've had your airbike picked up by some of the other guards," said the Vulpix man. "Wouldn't want it to be stolen, after all."

"So true," chuckled Ormazd.

The jeep cautiously drove through the streets, and soon made it onto a trail on the desert connecting the city to the temple.

"Oh!" said Ormazd. "I don't think I got your name, sir."

The Vulpix guard said, "You can just call me Kassem. I may not be the captain, per se--he's currently on duty patrolling the city streets--but I am trusted by him to be close to the

sultan in his absence. The sultan will tell the captain what's going on, so I'm not worried."

The vehicle continued over the sands, and the tires continued over them, not being sunk into the sand at all.

It wasn't long until the Temple of Entei made it into view.

"We've made it to the Temple of Entei," said Kassem.

The temple looked like a mix of an ancient Egyptian temple and several Persian fire temples placed together. All of them had decorations having to do with volcanoes and fire in general. Rubies, topazes, and gold decorated the structure to give it a fiery appearance.

Ormazd stepped out of the jeep, as did Kassem.

The Eevee hero approached the doors, key in hand.

The key slowly was inserted into the lock, and Ormazd's hand slowly turned it.

A small click, followed by a slightly loud "crack" and a flash of orange light, signaled the lock's disappearance.

The large gold and red doors swung open and inwardly. A blast of moderately hot air blew past Ormazd and Kassem.

"It sure is warm in there," said Ormazd. "I guess it's rather appropriate for a fire-themed temple."

"I have a feeling that Entei is awaiting you," said Kassem. "Good luck!"

Ormazd nodded, and entered the temple. The doors shut behind him once he was inside.

At first, the temple's inside was dim, but then, some crystal pylons began to light.

Ormazd soon found himself in what looked like the inside of a gymnasium, with a large climbing wall made of rough tufa and pumice.

"Welcome, Ormazd al-Bunaeon," boomed a baritone male voice. "I am Entei, and I know why you are here."

Ormazd just stood silent.

"Before you can stand in my presence," said the voice of Entei, "I have two lesser trials for you. The first is the Trial of Felsic Magma. This rock wall is made by rough felsic lava, hence its rugged appearance. It was chosen to make it climbable, even without climbing equipment. At the top is the gemstone that will open the door on the other side. Failure will not be held against you, as long as you are willing to keep trying until you succeed."

"I am prepared, Entei," replied Ormazd. "For the sake of my beloved Saamayah!"

Ormazd approached the wall. He decided to study its lay out at first, to find the best places to grasp and get a foothold.

Then he noticed the places he could climb easily, and began his ascent. It was relatively easy, but it did drain him due to the effort needed. Not too much, but enough to prove it was indeed a workout.

After a few minutes, he got ahold of the gemstone and carefully put it in his vest, and then very cautiously climbed back down.

Once he was back down on the floor, he walked over to the other door and placed the gem within the hole in the lock.

Both the gem and the lock dissolved into sand, and the door slowly yawned open. Ormazd passed through.

The second major chamber of the temple was a smoother igneous stone. The tiles alternated between light and dark colors in a chessboard setting.

In the center of the chamber was a slightly slanted table, which curved inward, like a spiraling "wishing well" one would see at certain museums. Only the curve had multiple grooves and paths, with four possible starting points.

"This one tests your mind and your luck," said the voice of Entei. "There are marbles there, and only one path leads to the very center. The other three paths lead to gaps further out. Should you make a mistake, a new marble will appear in the tray. Just keep trying until you succeed."

Ormazd tested out each path. The first path only made it halfway through, but the second path, he was fortunate enough to see the marble swerve and roll to the center of the table.

The marble made a "gloop" sound, followed by a wisp of smoke. This indicated the marble hit some magma. But soon, the smoke ended.

A few seconds later, the doors on the other side slowly opened.

"I'm amazed," said the voice of Entei. "The last person who attempted this did all four paths before successfully getting the correct one. You must be lucky and clever. Come on in."

Ormazd soon went through the newly opened doors.

Ormazd soon arrived in the sanctuary of Entei.

The avatar of Entei sat upon the throne close to the altar. He was a human with the face mask of Entei, as well as a cape resembling the smoke and "back wings" of said legend.

He wore various fiery tones, and pantaloons that were brown like Entei's natural fur.

Entei soon rose up onto his feet, applauding Ormazd.

"I am most impressed, Ormazd," said Entei. "You have shown the skill, wisdom, and luck that I would expect a great hero."

"Thank you, great Entei," said Ormazd.

"And I know you are here for my gem," continued Entei, "for you are on a mission to defeat Iblis-Mewtwo."

Entei then waved his arms and conjured up a flaming axe-headed polearm.

The legendary Pokémon avatar said, "Let us see your worthiness to attain it!"

Ormazd prepared his falchion and shield, saying "I shall prove such indeed!"

Entei then lunged forward and prepared to do a downward strike, but Ormazd quickly lifted his shield to block the blow.

When Entei lifted his weapon back up, Ormazd used this opportunity to do a quick thrust forward.

"Very good," said Entei in amazement. "You know how to create tactics as you go!"

"I needed to in order to survive my journey so far," chuckled Ormazd.

Entei then sent out a Fire Blast, and again, Ormazd blocked the flames. The Gem of Regirock made the shield stone to protect him from the flames. Ormazd then lunged forward and did a diagonal slash.

"Urgh!" grunted Entei. "You really are determined!" The fire legend then spat flames onto the axe head of the polearm and swung onto the floor. The floor split, creating a sea of magma. The polearm then vanished, and Entei began to fling fireballs at Ormazd.

Ormazd leapt from island to island, stopping just enough to block a fireball with his shield. It was too risky to try

to dodge, since he would run the risk of falling into the molten rock, so blocking with his shield was necessary. Once he was close enough, Ormazd made one last thrust, and Entei crouched.

The sea of magma quickly cooled and hardened, and it was safe to walk on without getting a hot foot.

"You have won, Ormazd," said Entei as he struggled to get back up.

The legendary Pokémon then clapped his hands, and a flame red gem appeared. It floated onto the slot near the tip of Ormazd's blade.

"You now have my gem," said Entei. "Now you can summon the power of flame onto your sword when needed."

Ormazd focused his thoughts, and flames did cover his sword blade. He thought yet again, and the flames subsided, and the sword blade cooled. Ormazd then put the falchion away.

"You may need to travel to a few more oases on the way," explained Entei, "but the next place to go is to the Tower of Moltres. It is close to Moltgrove City."

"Yes," said Ormazd. "That shall be my next destination."

"The Three Trinities are with you," said Entei, "and shall give you strength for your quest."

Once Entei said those words, Ormazd was soon transported back to the entrance.

"You did it, Ormazd!" said Kassem. "Let's return to Enteinium City and tell the sultan the news!"

Kassem and Ormazd soon returned to the sultan's palace, and Sultan Nooruzzaman saw them return.

"You're back!" said the sultan. "Did you meet with Entei?"

"Yes, great sultan," replied Ormazd. "And I have gained his gem. Entei said the next one to meet with is Moltres."

"It will be a long journey to your next location," said Sultan Nooruzzaman. "There are two oases on the way to the next city. I shall give you a good route for your airbike."

The sultan went to another room for a brief bit. After a few minutes, he reemerged with a small data card.

"Put this into your airbike's computer," said the sultan. "It will guide you to the two oases that will best ensure you make it to Moltgrove City well."

"I thank you, sire," replied Ormazd. "Farewell, and may we meet again in better times."

The sultan just nodded.

Ormazd soon made it outside the palace, and got onto his airbike. He inserted the data card into the computer, and it provided a route. The next oasis to go to was a little further west of the Temple of Entei.

The people of Enteinium City cheered as Ormazd exited the city and soon made it into the desert. It was midafternoon, and the special air conditioning kept the Eevee man cool as he made it through the desert.



## Chapter 12: Ormazd's Dream

The sun blazed above as Ormazd rode his airbike across the desert sands, but he barely felt it, and the special air conditioning also protected him from possible sunburn.

"Let's see," said Ormazd, looking at his vehicle's map. "The next oasis should be an hour or so away. I should make it there before sunset. It'll be the perfect spot to rest for the night."

Some Fearow flew overhead as the Eevee man drove on.

Diglett and Sandshrew also saw the hero zoom by, looking at him curiously, before carrying on their lives.

And as predicted, Ormazd made it to the oasis as the sun was beginning to set.

A tent was built near the cool pool of the oasis, intended as a place for travelers to rest.

Also, at the oasis, was a small garden with some fruit to snack on.

"Welcome, traveler," said a hermit at the oasis. The hermit was an elderly man with Sandshrew ears and a tail.

"Thank you, good man," said Ormazd. "I'm here to rest on the way to Moltgrove City."

"Yes," said the hermit with a soft chuckle. "A Persian Bedouin stopping by here told me of your heroic actions. The sultan was quite impressed of your battle with the desert bandits."

"I had no idea my adventures have traveled this far," Ormazd said meekly.

The hermit then got out a goblet and said, "You must've come quite a ways." He then got some water from the oasis

and continued, "Here, have some water. I'll pick some of the fruit for you to eat and regain your strength."

"You're very kind, good hermit," replied Ormazd. "I thank you deeply."

The hermit gave Ormazd some dates and desert pears, and they satiated his hunger.

"I have a guest cot for you to sleep on," said the hermit. "It's been a long time since I've had a guest."

"Thank you even more," chuckled Ormazd.

When the sun set over the horizon, and the stars shone, Ormazd entered the tent and rested on the guest cot.

In his sleep, he dreamt he stepped out of the tent and met his beloved Saamayah.

"Saamayah?" Ormazd said in wonder.

"My love," Saamayah replied. "I am also dreaming of you in my sleep. Legend says that when two dream the same dream, they will meet in that dream."

"It would seem there is truth in that legend," Ormazd said with a chuckle.

Ormazd sat down on a comfortable spot.

"Please relax for a while," the lovely Eevee woman said. "Let my dance give you the courage for what is to come."

Saamayah then performed her beautiful dance around the oasis. The stars seemed to shine more beautifully, as though to add to the maiden's splendor.

When her dance finished, she approached her love.

"Saamayah," Ormazd said again.

"It is almost time to awaken," said Saamayah. "You are close to your next destination. The Three Trinities will give you victory--I have faith in it!"

The two kissed before the dream ended, and Ormazd awoke back in the hermit's tent.

He and the hermit shared a light breakfast, and the hermit himself helped check the airbike.

"The next oasis to the northeast has some fuel refill," said the hermit. "Once there, Moltgrove City is not far away."

"Thank you again for your hospitality," said Ormazd as he got on his airbike. "I hope we meet again in more peaceful times."

The hermit waved farewell as the Eevee hero soon drove off.

Ormazd still reflected a bit on his dream the previous night.

But his attention soon returned to the next oasis.

"There it is!" said Ormazd. "And good thing too--my airbike has only a quarter of a tank of fuel left!"

But once he was at the oasis, he saw the place was in disarray.

A caravan was trapped in their own tents, because a sorcerer was threatening them.

The sorcerer was a human with Houndoom ears, horns, and tail. He was in a robe and turban with evil markings, and had a staff with a black orb upon it. Under his turban, he had dark brown hair.

"Just do as I say," said the sorcerer, "and I will let you all live."

Ormazd, indignant, got out his sword and shield.

"Away from those people!" said Ormazd.

The sorcerer turned around and saw Ormazd. His glowing fiery eyes gazed upon the hero.

"Ah," said the sorcerer. "You must be Ormazd al-Bunaeon. Iblis-Mewtwo told me you would be coming this way."

"Who are you?" asked Ormazd. "And what business have you here?"

"My name doesn't matter," said the sorcerer, "as you will not live long enough to remember it."

With that, he tapped his staff into the ground, and a giant Steelix emerged from the sands. It was a non-anthropomorphic Steelix, but had red glowing eyes, and it was dark gray.

"Just try and defeat my pet," mocked the sorcerer.

"I will succeed in this!" said Ormazd.

He remembered the strengths and weaknesses of Steelix, so he focused his thoughts, and used the gem of Entei to make his sword a flame sword.

The feather of Zapdos increased his running speed, so he could dodge the Steelix's attacks. Using a quick swipe, Ormazd was able to strike a blow on the Demon Steelix.

"Blast!" yelled the sorcerer. "Use your Dragonbreath!"

The Steelix opened its mouth, and spat out flames different from Fire-type attacks, but would still do serious damage.

Ormazd used his shield to protect him from the attack, and made another swing at the monster. This one was a critical hit, as it caused the metallic beast to fall over and crush the sorcerer under its body. Luckily it didn't hit the caravan.

The caravan travelers cheered upon seeing the sorcerer slain. The Demon Steelix just vanished slowly as the crowd gathered around the hero.

"Thank you, good man," said the caravan leader, a tan-skinned woman with brown hair, green eyes, Persian ears and a Persian tail. "You have saved our caravan."

"I had to," said Ormazd. "You were in danger."

"What brings you to this oasis?" said another member of the caravan, a young man who also had Eevee ears and a tail.

"I came to get some fuel for my airbike," explained Ormazd, "because I am on my way to Moltgrove City."

"We'll not only fuel your vehicle," said the caravan leader, "but also do some maintenance on it."

The mechanics of the caravan soon set to work doing the maintenance checks and refueling on the airbike.

As the machine was being serviced, the caravan leader spoke more with Ormazd.

"The sorcerer said your name was Ormazd al-Bunaeon," she said.

"Yes," Ormazd answered. "I am on a mission to gain the power of the Three Trinities to defeat Iblis-Mewtwo."

"The sorcerer said he had spoken with Iblis-Mewtwo," said the caravan leader. "It would seem appropriate he'd be arrogant and foolhardy enough to make a deal with the archfiend."

"Well," said Ormazd. "His reign of terror will not be for long."

Soon, they looked and saw the airbike was ready to go.

"I guess it's time for me to continue on my way," said Ormazd as he got up.

"Thank you again for aiding us!" said the caravan leader. "The Three Trinities protect you!"

The rest of the caravan waved and gave their farewells as Ormazd again traveled north towards Moltgrove City.

## Chapter 13: Plight of the Moltgrove Sultan

Moltgrove City soon came into view. It was only an hour and a half since Ormazd left the oasis south of that city.

"There it is!" said Ormazd. "Soon, I can find out how to gain the power of Moltres!"

The Tower of Moltres loomed high just behind the city. But it wasn't the only claim to fame in that city.

Moltgrove City was known for its famous textile industry. Materials--both made within the city itself, and those imported from other lands--are made into fabrics and clothing. Everything from casual wear, to working clothes, to even fancy clothing for formal occasions--many, if not most, were made within the boundaries of Moltgrove.

A couple billboards bragging of Moltgrove's famous fabrics and attire greeted Ormazd's sight as he made it into the city limits.

A few Pikachu and Vulpix girls were modeling some of the newest gowns before some photographers as Ormazd went through the city.

After parking his airbike someplace safe, Ormazd got off and began to walk about. He made it to a café and got some tea.

Then he asked, "Does anyone know where the sultan is?"

One waitress, one with Sandslash ears, spines, and a tail, along with regular human features, knew the answer.

"I heard he went to the oasis southwest of the city," she said.

"I heard that oasis' waters have medicinal properties," said one of the other customers. "Perhaps someone near to the sultan has taken ill?"

"Perhaps I can aid the sultan," said Ormazd. After leaving a tip for the waitress along with the rest of the payment, he then left the café and went back to his airbike.

Ormazd located the oasis on his map and set off. The trip was relatively quick, despite the fact the oasis was farther away than the previous.

It was midday when he got there, and it didn't take long to find the sultan.

The sultan visiting the oasis was a man with light tan skin, medium brown hair, and gray eyes. He had Flareon ears and a tail. And he wore a turban and robes that had fiery colors and a feather behind the turban's gem that looked similar to a Moltres feather. It was only appropriate since it was Moltgrove City, which in turn was near the Tower of Moltres.

"Excuse me, sir," said Ormazd. "My name is Ormazd al-Bunaeon. Are you the sultan of Moltgrove City?"

"I am indeed," the man replied. "I am Sultan Omran bin-Lahabalfunk, ruler of Moltgrove City."

"What brings you to this oasis, good sultan?" asked Ormazd. "Is there someone near and dear to you that needs the medicinal waters?"

"Indeed," replied Sultan Omran. "My beloved wife, the sultana Leasha, has fallen under a strange illness, and I need the waters here to cure her."

"I can help, your greatness," said Ormazd. Briefly going back to his airbike, the Eevee hero got out an extra canteen and filled it up. He then gave it to the sultan.

"You are indeed kind," said the sultan. "Let us go back to Moltgrove City. I will let the guards know you are coming."

"Thank you, your Highness," said Ormazd. "I will meet you back there."

Ormazd got back on his airbike, and watched as the sultan mounted his Rapidash and rode off.

He waited for the sultan to get a good head start, and then began his airbike and rode back to the city.

Sultan Omran made it back to the palace and returned to the bedroom.

Sultana Leasha lay in bed. Her violet-black hair covered the pillow she rested on. Her breathing was heavily labored from the illness she suffered.

Omran then opened the canteen Ormazd gave him, and he helped her drink.

"Here, my love," the sultan said in a gentle tone. "A man named Ormazd gave me a spare canteen to get you the water."

Leasha soon swallowed the water. Her sea green eyes flickered open. Her breathing became easier, and she slowly sat up.

"My dear husband," said Leasha as she hugged Omran. "Thank you."

"No," said Omran. "It is the man who helped me we should thank. He should be arriving soon."

"Indeed," said a guard who had entered. "I have seen that man you spoke of. He is on his way to the throne room now."



## Chapter 14: The Flaming Wings of Moltres

The sultan and his wife soon went to the throne room, and the sultana was in a lovely golden and light orange dress with her jeweled headband.

Ormazd bowed before the two royals.

"I thank you deeply for aiding my wife," said Omran.

"And you have the thanks of my entire city."

"I was just doing what was needed," said Ormazd.

Sultan Omran then continued, "I had heard word from Sultan Nooruzzaman that you are after the powers of the Three Trinities. I too have heard of Iblis-Mewtwo's bane."

"Indeed, sire," replied Ormazd.

Omran reached into his tunic and retrieved a key.

"Here," said the sultan. "This is the Key to the Tower of Moltres. The tower is just a brief trek north of our city."

"The power of the Three Trinities," Sultana Leasha said in astonishment. "The Three Trinities would not give their power to just anyone. This young man was obviously chosen."

"I already gained four of the nine powers," said Ormazd.

The Eevee man then picked up the key from the sultan.

"The shortest road to the tower is just northeast of the palace," said Sultan Omran.

"Thank you, Majesties," said Ormazd as he prepared to leave the throne room. "May we meet again in better times."

The royals thanked him again as he left.

Ormazd soon mounted his airbike again and prepared to zoom off.

The people of Moltgrove City also cheered as he left, as the word of him aiding the sultan had quickly spread.

Even the children within the city cheered and tossed flowers and confetti to cheer him on.

The cheers quieted down as Ormazd soon exited the city.

As Sultan Omran said, the tower was just a short distance away.

The tower outside had the appearance of a very tall smokestack of an enormous furnace. But there were other structures around it to show that it was indeed a tower to enter and ascend.

Ormazd soon found a safe parking spot and approached the tower door. He inserted the key within the lock, and the lock and key both disappeared in a fiery flash and a sharp bang.

The doors swung open wide, and Ormazd entered the tower.

The inside of the tower was much like the inside of a smokestack, with spiraling staircases, and a large firepit in the middle at the bottom.

But the firepit is cold and dark.

A moderately high male voice spoke:

"I am the voice of Moltres.

To meet with me, you must reignite the firepit. Only then will my special elevator bring you up."

"I am prepared, Moltres," said Ormazd.

An open tome was nearby. He went up to the open book and read it.

The book told to open three trenches to pour in the fuels--oil, incense, and woodchips--to mix them into the pit below. Once they are mixed, all one needed to do was to toss

one of the torches into the pit. Once ignited, the person needs to use the bellows to air the flames till they were hot enough.

The three trenches had riddles to open them. Ormazd was prepared to solve the riddles.

The Eevee hero went to the oil trench first. The riddle on the gates read thusly:

"Which of these three oils is not from below?"

Ormazd backed up and looked the switches. One read "black sludge"--an old name in that land for "petroleum". The second showed an olive tree. And the third showed a shellfish. Ormazd smiled. Olive oil was from a tree fruit, not from the ground or from the sea. Ormazd climbed up some steps and pulled the lever. The doors of the trench opened, and a large supply of olive oil flowed. The magic of the land made it possible for large amounts of olive oil to be stored within the tower.

The hero then crossed some bridges to make it to the second trench, and read the riddle on its gate:

"What appreciates incense the most?"

Ormazd ascended up some steps nearby and looked at a panel. There were five buttons, each with a pictograph for a label--one was an eye, the second an open mouth, the third a hand, the fourth a nose, and the fifth an ear.

"I guess no one thought anyone would unlock the tower for a long time," said Ormazd with a chuckle. The riddle was asking about which of the five senses that incense appeals to. And almost everyone knew that incense appeals to the sense of smell. Ormazd pressed the button labeled with the nose pictograph. The doors to the trench opened, and some sand-like incense flowed down into the firepit below.

"One more riddle to solve," said Ormazd as he crossed some other bridges to the third trench.

The third trench had this as its riddle:

"Which of these is a tree?"

Ormazd looked on the raised platform nearest the gate. There were four keys. Above each key was written a word:

"Mankey;" "Mongoose;" "Mangrove;" and "Mud".

Ormazd remembered his time in school, and remembered that Mangrove is a tree--in fact, it was the only one of the four "m" words that was even a plant.

He then went up and got the key. The lock for the gate was on a platform just above the gate--obviously to prevent the user from being swept in the current. Ormazd then turned the lock, and pulled a switch nearby.

The door swung open, and a slurry of woodchips and volatile fluid went down the firepit. Ormazd covered his mouth avoid choking on it.

Once all the fuel was mixed, Ormazd ascended up the stairs, for he noticed a light higher up.

At the higher-up floor, Ormazd not only discovered the elevator platform, but a torch that could be removed from the sconce.

"Very clever," Ormazd said. "Moltres must've prepared it once I got the fuel together."

He then got the torch and approached the edge of the floor.

As carefully as he could, he dropped the torch into the firepit below.

After a brief crash, the firepit soon ignited with a "froosh", and hot air began to come up. Ormazd soon noticed

some bellows nearby, and he at once started squeezing them repeatedly to get an airflow.

The hot air began to flow faster upward, and the elevator platform began to rattle.

The Eevee then ran to the platform and got it loose. The platform then shot up, but not so fast as to be dangerous. The elevator soon came to rest at the roof.

The rooftop showed the day sky above the desert sands far below.

Also, on the roof top was a human with light tan skin, red-brown hair, and brown eyes. He wore a fiery shirt and pair of pantaloons, with black boots. On his head was a headdress of fiery feathers. He also sported a cape resembling fiery wings. Surely enough, this was the avatar of Moltres.

"Welcome, Ormazd al-Bunaeon," said Moltres. "I see you have made it. I trust getting the fire lit gave you no trouble."

"It was rather interesting mixing the fuel together to light it," chuckled Ormazd.

"We all know why we are here," said Moltres. He then got out a spear and said, "It has been so long since I had a nice sparring battle. Shall we begin?"

Some bars appeared around the rooftop to make fencing.

"We wouldn't want a fatal accidental fall, now would we?" chuckled Moltres.

At the snap of his fingers, Moltres' cape turned into wings, and he took to flight.

Ormazd prepared his shield and sword. The shield became rocky, yet still light.

Since he remembered that Moltres is also part Flying type, Ormazd channeled the power of Raikou into his blade to make it Electrical.

Moltres pointed his spear, surrounding it with flames, and dove at Ormazd. The Eevee dodged out of the way, and he countered with an electrified slash.

"Very good!" said Moltres, recovering and getting back up. "But can you dodge this?"

The avatar of the fire bird Pokémon then pointed his spear, and sent out the Heat Wave. Ormazd blocked with his shield. After recovering from that, he did an upward swing and struck the opponent again.

"Urk!" grunted Moltres, briefly falling back to the roof of the tower. He then got back up and said, "You are good, but try to take this!" Moltres then did Sky Attack! He vanished briefly, and then flew like a giant natural Moltres and hit him. Ormazd felt the brunt, but kept up. The fire bird flew at him again, but Ormazd swung quickly, knocking him back down.

"All right!" said Moltres. "You have proven the worthiness of having my power."

Moltres then plucked a feather from his cape and placed it on Ormazd's cape.

"My feather," explained Moltres, "will allow you to jump higher, and let you take falls better--though I would not recommend you try it from this tower."

"Well said," briefly chuckled Ormazd. He then approached the elevator platform.

"Here," offered Moltres, "I'll help the platform lower you down safely."

With a wave of his arms, the avatar of the fiery legendary got the platform to gently lower Ormazd downward.

The Eevee hero then returned to Moltgrove City, and sunset was coming.

He went to the inn and got a room. The innkeeper smiled.

"We heard of you from the sultan's guards already," said the innkeeper, a female Umbreon with blonde hair and violet eyes. She had come to Poké-Arabia from another kingdom a few years back to start a new business.

"I am flattered," said Ormazd.

"Where do you plan to go next," the innkeeper asked curiously.

Ormazd thought, and then answered, "Well, I've already been to Entinium City and here, so the next spot is Metanringa City, where the Cavern of Registeel should be."

The innkeeper giggled and said, "Well, with your airbike, you'll definitely get there before noon."

"Indeed," said Ormazd. "Good night, friend."

"Good night, hero," said the innkeeper as she saw him head to his room for the night.

## Chapter 15: The Malady in Metanringa

Sunrise came the next day.

Ormazd had a breakfast, and after paying for his room and board, he got on his airbike and waved to the people as he left the city.

He then went east and just slightly south, and soon got to Metanringa City.

Metanringa City was famous for its metallurgy and metal working. Since it was blessed with the power and protection of Registeel, it seemed appropriate.

But this time, however, things were amiss.

Very few people were out at the time.

This troubled Ormazd greatly, as he knew this was when a lot were at work, despite the hot desert climate.

"What has happened here?" asked Ormazd.

"Perhaps I can explain," answered one voice.

Ormazd turned and saw who was speaking. There was a young teenage boy with Sentret ears and a tail. He wore a sleeveless white t-shirt and blue jeans, and was barefoot, since the streets were cleaned and thus it was safe to be so.

"The people here are ill," said the boy. "They've started to become ill only recently. It started with the oasis south of the city."

"The oasis?" said Ormazd. He had visited five of the six oases of the desert region, so this was obviously the one he had not been to yet.

"I usually get my water from the city's fountain," explained the boy. "But most people like getting the water



from the oasis. It was only a few days ago that the sickness started to take hold."

"How far is this oasis?" asked Ormazd.

"Just a league south of the city," said the boy. "There were rumors of a stranger going there in the days before the sickness began. This is too much to be a coincidence."

"Indeed," said Ormazd. "I'll get to the bottom of this!"

Ormazd got back onto his airbike and took off to the south.

The airbike soon arrived at the sixth oasis of the desert.

The waters of the oasis, normally blue and clean, were a putrid green color instead.

Ormazd, as he got off his vehicle, soon saw the cause.

A muscular man wearing only pants, a belt, and boots, was dumping a poison into the oasis' waters. He had almond-tone skin, brown hair, green eyes, and had the horn, ears, and tail of a Nidoking.

"Hold!" said Ormazd. "What reason have you to pollute these waters? Has Iblis-Mewtwo taken control of you as well?"

The man looked toward Ormazd and said, "Who's Iblis-Mewtwo? I'm just here to try to get the city to submit to my tribe's ways!"

"Your tribe?" asked Ormazd.

"Yes," said the Nidoking man. "The deity we serve is the true one, and the people of the city are infidels! We are forcing them to either convert to our beliefs or die!"

"I will not let you get away with such intolerance or evil!" said Ormazd as he got out his sword and shield.

The Nidoking villain got out a large battle axe. The two battled.

The axe barely missed Ormazd most of the time. The few times it looked as though it would make its mark, Ormazd blocked with his shield. Since Nidoking were part Ground-type, Ormazd knew that Electricity would do little good. And it was doubtful if Fire would help much, so he kept his blade the natural way.

After an hour and a half of battling, Ormazd struck one final blow, and the terrorist fell. Ormazd then prepared a grave for him, as a point of honor.

Once Ormazd finished giving his foe a proper final rest, he looked about and soon found a book. It not only showed what poison was used, but also the way to neutralize it. The terrorist had plenty on hand in the event an ally of his drank some by mistake. And there was a large crate of the antidote as well. Ormazd pushed the heavy box, and with all his might, dumped the antidote into the oasis.

The waters of the oasis soon turned back to a pristine blue.

The young boy Ormazd met earlier rode in on an airbike of his own.

"You did it, sir!" said the boy. "The people should soon start becoming healthy again! They're starting to drink from the fountain to become well, but they'll be glad to hear the oasis is clean again!"

"I had to," said Ormazd. "The people were in need!"

"The sultan wants to see you," said the boy. "He has heard of your travels so far!"

Ormazd got back on his own airbike and said, "Let's head back together."

The teenager nodded, and the two headed back to Metanringa City.

## Chapter 16: The Metallic Cavern of Registeel

Ormazd followed the teenager back into Metanringa City, but he was in for a pleasant surprise.

The crowds came out, fully recovered from the drugged water. They cheered as he returned.

Also, among the crowd, was the Ninetales Sultan of Metanringa, Sultan Tayyab al-Thaealibahmar.

Sultan Tayyab had pale peach skin, black hair, dark gray eyes, and had the ears and nine tails of Ninetales. He also wore a bright white sultan's turban, and some white, silver, and gold decoration on his other royal attire.

"You did it, hero!" said Sultan Tayyab. "You have saved our entire city from certain death!"

"I had to, your greatness," said Ormazd.

"I've heard of him," said one of the civilians. "That is Ormazd al-Bunaeon. He is on a mission to unite the power of the Three Trinities!"

"Ah, yes," said the sultan. "So he is most likely needing the key to the Cavern of Registeel."

The sultan reached into his pouch and retrieved a key that looked like it was made of refined steel.

"Here is the key to the cavern," said the sultan as he gave it to Ormazd. "The cavern is just northeast of the city."

"I know where it is," said the teen boy. "I can take him to the shortest route."

"I am glad you are volunteering, young man," replied the sultan. "Best of luck to you, Ormazd."

The teenage Sentret boy guided Ormazd through the streets as other civilians cheered him on, and it wasn't long till he found the Cavern of Registeel.

The entrance to the cavern looked like the entrance to an iron ore mine. Refined columns of steel stood beside the main gate.

Ormazd approached the locked gate and inserted the key. Both the key and the lock dissolved into sand, and the doors yawned wide open.

Ormazd waved farewell to the boy before going in. The gates soon closed once the Eevee hero was inside.

The inside of the cavern was at first pitch black. But soon, torches lit, and Ormazd could see what he was in.

The large stone-like chamber was reinforced with mighty metallic beams. In the center of the chamber was a metallic pyramid. Opposite of the four sides of the pyramid where stairways which led to other parts of the cavern.

A moderately high feminine voice spoke, saying:

"Welcome, Ormazd al-Bunaeon. I am the avatar of Registeel. I know why you are here.

"The large pyramid covers the ladder that leads down to where I reside. To remove the pyramid, you must travel through the other parts of the cavern and meet the challenges therein.

"Do so, and the pyramid will raise up, and you'll progress. I know you can do it, as you have met the challenges of my colleagues already."

Ormazd then looked at the pyramid. Each face had the marking of four other Steel-type Pokémon. One face showed a Steelix, the second face a Skarmory, the third an Aggron, and the fourth a Mawile.

"I think I know where I shall go first," said Ormazd. He went down the stairway that was closest the depiction of a Steelix.

The chamber appeared to be a large trench, which was so deep that it was impossible to see the bottom in a dark environment.

After a few moments, Ormazd felt a large rumble. Then he saw a Steelix emerged.

Luckily, this Steelix was much friendlier than the one Ormazd encountered earlier with his battle with the sorcerer.

The Steelix nudged his head toward some rock pillars. It seemed obvious that he'd bridge one gap at a time, and this would be the path to the other side of the trench.

Ormazd noticed a small light at the other side of the trench.

"All right, good Steelix," said Ormazd. "I'll trust you. Lead me to the other side."

The Steelix nodded. He bridged the gap to one rock island, then another, and then another. Ormazd simply crossed each gap one at a time, until he reached the other side.

The light source soon revealed itself as an orb. Ormazd reached for the orb, and a bright flash surrounded him. When he could see again, the stairway he descended earlier vanished, and the side with the Steelix pattern glowed slightly.

"Very good," said the voice of Registeel. "The chamber with the Steelix was a test of trust, and you passed it well. Go ahead and pick another challenge."

The Eevee hero looked again, and went down the stairs near the side that had a Skarmory graphic.

When Ormazd reached the bottom of the stairs, he soon saw a tall chamber, with the light near the top.

He then heard a breathing sound. He looked and saw a large Skarmory with a saddle.

Ormazd then realized it--he needed to ride the Skarmory up to the top.

"Think you can get me to the top?" asked Ormazd.

The Skarmory nodded, and lay down to allow Ormazd to mount on him.

Once the Eevee was on, the Skarmory then took to flight.

But Ormazd knew it wouldn't be that easy. And his prediction was correct. Large spike balls started to fall from the ceiling.

"Look out!" said Ormazd. Using the reins, he guided his avian mount to dodge them.

After a couple of harrowing minutes, Ormazd finally reached the light orb at the top of the chamber. Again, the light flashed, and he was back in the main chamber. The stairwell that Ormazd descended earlier is now gone, and the face on the pyramid with the Skarmory was flashing.

"Good flying," said Registeel's voice again. "That test was to see how well you can make split-second decisions. Try another challenge."

Ormazd looked at the two faces that were not yet glowing. Then he traveled down the stairway near where the Aggron marking was on the pyramid.

The chamber Ormazd entered in had the appearance of an arena, if an arena were built by earth deities within the underground.

And a few seconds after he entered, some torches lit, and a beam shone on Ormazd. He then grew to the size of a natural Aggron, and one such creature approached.

Despite being a non-anthropomorphic Aggron, he was able to speak like a human.

He said, "How about a nice friendly wrestling match? You seem like a worthy opponent."

Ormazd was quite surprised. It was the first time he had to battle without weapons. But the creature did mention it was friendly.

"I'm well with the offer," said Ormazd, preparing to wrestle.

The two then grappled each other, each exerting force.

During the pushing and holding, Ormazd did hear a scraping sound. It was the Aggron's tail scraping the floor. And he knew that the Aggron might be tempted to cheat--albeit with the intent of a joke.

But Ormazd also remembered he too had a tail, so he used it only to block the Aggron's tail, and nothing more.

Ormazd and the Aggron wrestled for about ten minutes. His muscles began to ache, but he noticed that the Aggron was also wearing out. All Ormazd had to do was outlast him.

And indeed he did. The Aggron panted heavily and lost his grip. He soon sat down.

"You are indeed great," said the Aggron. "This battle was a test of endurance and integrity. Endurance, because you have shown that you did not give up. And integrity, because you noticed my tail, and you might've been tempted to cheat as well, but resisted that temptation. You only used your tail to block mine."

The Aggron used the horns on his head to motion to the orb of light behind him.

Ormazd approached the orb and touched it. As before, a bright flash momentarily blinded him, and he soon got to see himself back in the pyramid chamber. Again, the stairway that was traversed earlier vanished, and the side with the Aggron marking glowed.

"Only one challenge left before you can face me," said the voice of Registeel. "Let's see you meet it."

Ormazd then decided down the one stairway remaining--the one near the side that had the graphic of Mawile.

The chamber that the Eevee hero entered had the appearance of a crystal mine. But since this was meant to be the home of Registeel, the crystal were unmistakably those of metallic compounds.

At the other end of the chamber was a Mawile.

While it was non-anthropomorphic as with the others, this one, a female, was also able to speak.

"Welcome, hero," said the Mawile. "Let's see if you can pass my illusion to find the light orb."

The metallic Pokémon then focused her thoughts, and then she split into multiples.

"I didn't know Mawile could learn Double Team," said Ormazd in surprise.

"This isn't Double Team," all the Mawile said in unison, "but it will keep you on your toes. Only the real me has the light orb you seek."

Ormazd sat down, almost in meditation, and looked for a bit.

"How to identify the real thing?" Ormazd murmured to himself.



And then he saw it. The real Mawile had her yellowish color along with the black on her hands and jaw horns. The fake ones were a gray-white instead of yellow.

This knowledge gave Ormazd the ability to go forward.

All the Mawile just watched and giggled. But they stopped giggling when he picked up the real one. The clones then vanished.

"Wow!" said the Mawile. "How did you know I was the real one?"

"Very simple," said Ormazd with a chuckle. "The fake ones were gray-white and black. The real one was yellow and black. You were that real one!"

"Wow!" she then replied. She then waved her arms to make the light orb appear. Ormazd touched it, and the light temporarily blinded him one last time.

When he could see again, Ormazd saw all four sides of the pyramid glowing, and the pyramid itself slowly raised up. A hole with a ladder downward was underneath. The Eevee hero carefully went down the shaft.

After climbing down the ladder, the traveler soon saw a small hallway.

At the end of the hallway was a metallic chamber, which looked like the inner sanctum of a temple, but almost made completely of metal.

Yet at the same time, it held an almost organic appearance.

In the center of the chamber, atop a large pedestal, sat a light tan skinned woman with bright blonde hair and glowing green eyes. She almost appeared out of place in a setting that was similar to 1,001 Nights.

The woman was dressed in a metallic bikini-like armor, knee-height metal boots, and wore a headband that had the Braille-like dots in the pattern similar to a natural Registeel.

The woman, the avatar of Registeel, arose and applauded him.

"Welcome, Ormazd al-Bunaeon," she said. "You have proven yourself, and I know why you are here."

"Yes, great Registeel," answered Ormazd. "Iblis-Mewtwo had been awakened, and I must unite the power of the Three Trinities."

"Indeed," replied Registeel. Then she waved her right hand and made a polearm appear, which she took into her hand. "Let's have a nice sparring battle, to prepare you for what's to come."

Ormazd got out his falchion and shield, and said, "Let's do this!"

Registeel lunged toward Ormazd with her polearm ready. Ormazd barely dodged it.

The resulting brief delay was just long enough for Ormazd to get his Falchion prepared with the Entei Gem's power of fire.

When Registeel lunged again, Ormazd blocked her blow with his shield, and then countered with a flame sword thrust.

Registeel staggered back momentarily. Since Fire was one of the weaknesses of Steel-type Pokémon, this definitely gave Ormazd the edge.

"You have definitely done your homework," Registeel giggled as she recovered from the blow. "Now to up the ante a bit."

The woman then snapped her fingers. The metal in the chamber soon began to take on an even more organic feel, but still metallic.

Some tendrils emerged from the floor to ensnare Ormazd. Registeel then did a leap into the air to do a downward strike. Ormazd got his shield up, with Regirock's gem prepared, to block the blow, and then did a flaming slash across Registeel.

The tendrils then released their grip from Ormazd, and he was able to move again.

Registeel got back up from the recent strike. She then clapped her hands, and a bright glow surrounded her. Her light tan skin soon changed to silvery, albeit a different tone from her bikini armor. She then picked up her polearm again.

Despite looking metallic, Registeel was much faster, as well as stronger. She was even able to strike Ormazd on the side. Ormazd yelled in pain.

"Wow!" giggled Registeel again, "I got lucky this time."

"I can still win this," said Ormazd. He waited for his opponent to charge again, and at the last possible moment, he did an upward flaming slash. Registeel fell backwards, her skin reverting back to its original light tan color.

The legendary soon got back up, albeit with some discomfort.

"You have won," said Registeel. She raised her hands a bit, and light shone down, healing both of them. After both were patched up, she then snapped her fingers, and a steel blue gem floated toward Ormazd's shield.

"This is my gem," explained Registeel. "As the Gem of Regirock makes your shield stronger against physical attacks,

this gem will make it more resilient against those of the supernatural."

"Thank you, Registeel," said Ormazd.

The legendary Steel-type said, "The Three Trinities are with you, and will guide you to victory!"

Ormazd's vision blacked out momentarily. When he could see again, he was back outside the cavern.

With that, he returned to Metanringa City.

Sultan Tayyab welcomed Ormazd back.

"You did it, didn't you?" the sultan said jovially. "You've won the power of Registeel."

"Yes, good sultan," replied Ormazd.

"It is getting late in the day," said Sultan Tayyab. "Why not rest in the palace for the night? The next day, you could head off to Seablight Harbor. The other harbor town is still recovering from its attack, but the other is still in operation."

"I am honored, sire," Ormazd said, accepting the ruler's invitation.

The guards escorted Ormazd with the sultan back to the palace.

The residence of the sultan had many luxuries that also befitted a town famous for its metal workings. Many cast metal statues of the sultan and his family, including predecessors, dotted some key spots. The garden had many trees and shrubs. Some of the plants bore fruit to eat, others were flowery or otherwise for shade. All of which provided much decoration for the area.

As Ormazd and the sultan dined together, they enjoyed the entertainment of the Vulpix dancing girls.

Soon, night came, and Ormazd was escorted to the guest room for the night.

The next morning, after a breakfast in bed, Ormazd soon traveled out. His airbike had been serviced as well, and the shortest route to Seablight Harbor had been uploaded into the airbike's computer.

"I've sent a message to one of the captains there," said Sultan Tayyab. "He'll allow you on his boat free of charge."

"You're too kind," Ormazd lightly chuckled. "Hopefully we may meet again, someday."

The people gave their farewells and wishes of good luck as Ormazd left Metanringa City and exited back out into the desert.

As was promised, the route taken was the shortest route, and the airbike only traveled for two and a half hours.

Seablight Harbor soon came into view. This city was famous for being a fishing port. Many fishermen prided themselves for providing the food from the sea to the mainland.

But it also had a Navy to protect the land from invaders, and that also included occasionally visiting the islands. Unfortunately, Iblis-Mewtwo's influence made this more difficult than usual.

Ormazd parked his airbike near a tavern, and went inside.

Nearby was a sea captain that had light skin, medium brown hair, and gray eyes. He was dressed like a very dignified nautical man, and had the ears and tail of a Vaporeon.

The sea captain looked up and saw Ormazd, and asked, "Excuse me, are you by any chance Ormazd al-Bunaeon?"

"Yes, sir," Ormazd replied, "that would be me indeed."

The captain saluted and said, "Sultan Tayyab of Metanringa City sent word of you. I shall gladly allow you onto my vessel."

"Thank you, captain," he replied.

The two men went onto the ship, a sloop with the latest in seafaring technology.

The captain got to the wheel and said, "The closest island is the Island of Suicune. Get ready, mate!"

Ormazd sat down and buckled up, saying "I'm ready, captain."

Engines below--with safety measures to protect the sea life--soon revved to life. The airbike was already secured in the hold below.

Soon, the ship left the port. There were sails for the ship, but the wind was too calm for them to be much effective.

But what mattered to the two was they were on their way to the next destination.

## Chapter 17: Pirates on Suicune's Island

The ship soon landed in the port of Suiclea City.

Suiclea City gained its fame as a city famous for sustainable agriculture. That is, they dealt in fruits, medicines, and other products that did not require deforestation for making farmland.

However, all was not well in the city.

A teenager approached Ormazd and the sea captain. This young man was shirtless and barefoot, but wore pants. He had tan skin, brown hair, and light brown eyes, and had some tufts indicate a Psyduck.

"Friends," said the teenager, "you've come at a bad time. A group of Shadow Vaporeon pirates have invaded--no doubt sent by Iblis-Mewtwo to harm us deeply."

"I'll handle the pirates!" said Ormazd.

"You are brave," responded the Psyduck boy.

Ormazd then went into the city. It did not take long to encounter a few of the pirates. These too had the Vaporeon ears and tails, along with the humanoid features. And they dressed as some of the Barbary pirates of long ago. Some carried traditional weapons, like tridents or cutlasses. Others, however, wielded machine guns and rifles. All of them were harassing the people of the island.

Ormazd prepared the Registeel gem on his shield, and the Raikou gem on his cutlass. Both the Moltres and the Zapdos feathers prepared to give him the extra agility needed for the battle.

"Turn around, pirates!" the hero said. "You battle with me now!"

The pirates turned around and saw Ormazd.

"Ahoy!" said one of them. "It is the one that Iblis-Mewtwo fears! Let's deal with him, mates!"

The pirates then charged toward the Eevee traveler. He used his shield to block the gunfire. When some got close enough, he used his electrified falchion to dispatch some of the scofflaws.

Those that remained started to back off.

"We must warn our captain!" said one pirate.

"Back to the Sultan's Palace!" said another.

The pirates then fled. Ormazd started to shudder.

"The Sultan's Palace?" asked Ormazd. "I must save the sultan!"

Ormazd then raced toward the heart of the city, since signs in the location pointed that was where the ruler's residence was. As he ventured off, the good sea captain and his crew helped get Ormazd's airbike off the ship and at a safe location.

"I'm confident he can handle the pirates," said the captain. "Let's get this someplace safe. I've a feeling he'll need it soon."

The Sultan's Palace was constructed to look like a cluster of sea palm trees bridged with delicate-looking, yet strong, bridges.

The arched gates had been broken open, no doubt by the pirates' break in.

More pirates, including those that retreated earlier, were prepared.

Ormazd again electrified his sword and prepared his shield, and charged in.

Some were able to get in some lucky blows on the hero, but Ormazd endured, defeating the pirates. He also found



some Oran and Citrus berries to eat to regain some of his health and will to fight.

Eventually, Ormazd was able to enter the throne room, and the sultan had his back against the wall. The Sultan had light brown hair, violet eyes, and had the tail of a Golduck. He also wore a royal turban and robes of light blue, light violet, and sea green.

The leader of the Shadow Vaporeon pirates wore black and violet attire, and he wielded a cutlass of ice.

"Now, sultan," said the enemy leader, "you shall pay for refusing to bow to Iblis-Mewtwo."

"Away from him, villain!" said Ormazd. "You face me now!"

"Ah, the youngster," laughed the enemy leader. "You've done quite a lot of damage for my crew. But do you think you can defeat me?"

"I know I can defeat you!" said Ormazd. He then quickly closed and locked the doors behind him, to prevent any sneak attacks.

"Have at you!" said the pirate leader.

The two clashed blades for what seemed like hours, but in reality, was only a quarter of an hour. Eventually, Ormazd landed one last electrified slash to fell the pirate leader.

Some of the pirates were able to break down the door, but when they saw their leader slain, they all dispersed. Some were arrested by the sultan's guards, but the rest simply fled the island.

Ormazd put away his sword and shield, and faced the sultan.

"Majesty," Ormazd calmly said, "are you well?"

"I am indeed, thanks to you," said the sultan. "I am Sultan Da'kan bin-Bitatalmuhit."

"And I am Ormazd al-Bunaeon," responded Ormazd.

"They said you are the one that Iblis-Mewtwo fears," asked the sultan. "Why so?"

The hero explained, "I am uniting the powers of the Three Trinities to defeat the fiend."

Sultan Da'kan reached into a pocket and got out a key that looked like it was made from sea coral.

"You're most likely heading to the Temple of Suicune," said the sultan as he walked up to Ormazd to give him the key.

"Indeed," said Ormazd as he accepted the item. "Thank you, sire."

The Golduck sultan then said, "The Temple of Suicune is north and a little west of the city. Best of luck to you."

The guards then safely escorted Ormazd out of the palace. He was surprised to see the good sea captain just outside the palace with the airbike.

"I figured you might need your transport," said the sea captain. "Here. You'll probably want to get to the Suicune Temple as soon as possible!"

"Thank you, captain," said Ormazd. "I shall return quickly."

Ormazd mounted his airbike and went through the streets, being cheered by the people as he made his way out of the city.

The jungles of the island were teeming with Wingull and Aipom. But it wasn't long till the Eevee man reached his destination.

The Temple of Suicune had the appearance of a marvelous sea-themed temple, as though a portion of Atlantis had been raised up from the depths and placed upon the island.

The central part of the temple had a roof resembling a gigantic conical shell.

Ormazd approached the gates of the temple, and inserted the key into the lock. Both the key and the lock dissolved into sand, and the gates opened.

As many times before, the doors shut when Ormazd went inside.

Some lanterns were already lit within the marble-like main hall of the temple.

Another feminine voice--this one slightly lower than that of the Registeel avatar, but still feminine--spoke:

"Welcome, Ormazd al-Bunaeon. I admire your courage.

"I have also seen your prowess in defeating those fiendish pirates.

"Now, solve my challenges in my temple, and prove your worth!"

The Eevee man approached a podium with a tablet.

"I, a priest of Suicune, have foreseen that the sciences of the land will one day improve. And Suicune herself revealed what will one day be called 'The Water Cycle'.

"Thus, I have prepared a puzzle that combines the portions of this.

"Past these doors will be the beginning of the trials."

Ormazd was amazed that someone revealed to this person long ago how the water cycle would work. He then entered the first chamber.

Within the chamber, a large cauldron of water was in the middle, and under the caldron was something that could heat it.

"Of course!" Ormazd said with a smile. "This must be the 'Evaporation' part of the water cycle." He looked up and

noticed a large vent above the cauldron, perhaps for where the water vapor would go.

The wood was gathered in the heating area, but there wasn't anything to light it. Then, an idea came to Ormazd.

The Eevee then used the Entei Gem on his sword, and then used the Flame Sword to ignite the fire. The fire started so quickly, the heat caused him to fall backwards, and he had to crawl away, before he was able to get back up and run from the heat.

The cauldron soon began to boil, and Ormazd was able to see the vapor enter the vent.

A series of moderately loud "clacks" were heard, and Ormazd turned to see a stairway forming. Ormazd ascended up them, and he soon found himself in another part of the temple.

The next area Ormazd entered was a large orb. At one end was the vent from the evaporation area, and the water vapor is entering the orb. At the other end was a pipe that he could only assume led to the next chamber. There was also another pipe connected to the roof for the vapor.

One more portion stood on the orb--something that looks like a connection of sorts.

Ormazd said, "Maybe this is a cloud-maker. But one thing is missing--dust. They need something to condense around to make clouds."

He looked and saw what could be considered a tank of some sort of dust. And a flexible tube was there.

Ormazd brought the tube over the connector. Next, he pushed a lever on the tank. Once he could hear the dust beginning to flow, Ormazd turned a valve near the connecting end of the orb. A small yet steady flow of dust, entering via an equally steady rhythm of puffs, entered the orb. Clouds began

to form, and the clouds flowed the pipe flowing into the next chamber.

A door yawned open. And Ormazd went through it.

Ormazd looked in wonder at what he saw in the third part of the temple.

The cloud made in the previous chamber had formed above, and below was a glowing hot patch of floor.

It dawned on him. He had to get the cloud to rain on the floor to cool it.

But to make the cloud rain, he had to get the air in the room to cool. How to do so?

The hero looked about, and saw three light blue switches. He looked up and saw what looked like cooling fans. And the fans were far below the cloud, so the cloud would not be blown away and dissipated.

Ormazd knew what he had to do. He turned each switch on, and shivered as the air became cooler. But it was necessary. Soon, he heard a brief bit of thunder, and the cloud above began to rain. There was a bit of an alcove in the room, and Ormazd retreated into it. The heated portion of floor hissed as the rain poured on it. But soon, it completely cooled. The rain stopped, and the wind machine stopped on its own.

The cooled down patch of floor slid open, revealing a ladder leading down to a spiral staircase downward. Ormazd descended down the steps.

The stairway spiraled down until Ormazd found a coral and shell archway. And he crossed into it.

The following chamber was carved of beautiful limestone and marble, with seashells and coral decorating it.

At the other end of the chamber was the avatar of Suicune on the throne. The woman had peach skin, brown hair, and sea blue eyes. She had a deep blue bikini decorated with pearls as trim. On her head was a headband that had its main charm a hexagon similar to the hexagon on Suicune's own forehead.

The avatar of Suicune applauded. She said, "Well done, Ormazd al-Bunaeon. You used the knowledge of how the water cycle works--evaporation, condensation, and precipitation--to unseal the path to me."

"Thank you, great Suicune," replied Ormazd.

"I know you need my jewel to take on Iblis-Mewtwo," she continued. She then picked up her trident and continued, "Let's have a sparring match to get you ready for what's to come!"

Ormazd got his sword and shield ready, setting his sword to Electric with the Gem of Raikou.

Suicune leapt up and did a downward thrust with her trident. Ormazd stepped back just slightly to dodge, and then countered with an electrified slash.

"Very good," said Suicune as she got back up. "But that was just the beginning."

The woman conjured up an Aurora Beam with her headband, which Ormazd just barely blocked with his shield in time. Ormazd and Suicune clashed weapons together before he could thrust at her with his blade.

"You're getting really good," said Suicune. "The battles with the others of the Three Trinities has taught you well. But let's see you counter this!"

Suicune raised her trident upwards, and the floor became water, with only some flat rock platforms. She then leapt from platform to platform, shooting some Bubblebeam

from time to time. Some of her Bubblebeam shots hit Ormazd, but most he was able to block. Ormazd stood his ground, deciding to let Suicune come to him. At the last possible moment, Ormazd struck with an electrical slash when she tried to get the drop on him.

The floor soon turned back into solid floor. Suicune got back up slowly.

"You have won," said Suicune. She made an ocean blue gem appear onto Ormazd's blade. Then she continued, "This gem will make your blade a water blade. And legend speaks that when the time is right, all three gems will combine to a special Element. You'll see soon enough."

"Thank you, Suicune," said Ormazd.

"The Three Trinities are with you," said Suicune, "and will guide you to victory."

Mist surrounded Ormazd briefly. When the mists cleared, he found himself back outside the temple. Ormazd got onto his airbike and returned to Suiclea City.

The sea captain helped Ormazd get his vehicle onto the ship. It was still in the middle of the day, so they were able to set sail.

"Where to next," said the sea captain.

The sea captain showed Ormazd a map of the islands.

The Eevee hero thought for a bit, and then said, "We ought to travel the Island of Regice next. We can travel to the Articuno Island after getting the gem from Regice."

"Very clever," said the sea captain. "This should definitely give Seidlitzia Port ample time to recover from its attack."

"Indeed, captain," agreed Ormazd.

The people of Suiclea City again cheered and thanked their hero for saving them from the pirates earlier.

Soon, the boat set sail.

Once the boat left port, the captain turned to Ormazd and said, "You might find it interesting spending the night at sea. It is relatively calm for now, so the splashing sound of the sea might be calming as you sleep."

"It would be a rather interesting experience," replied Ormazd.

Some of the captain's fellow sailors started to play a jig, and some even danced around playfully. Ormazd himself clapped his hands to help keep rhythm and tempo.



## Chapter 18: Ormazd and the Ghost Ship

The captain soon dropped anchor in a safe area between the Island of Suicune and the Island of Regice.

At least, it seemed safe at first.

The last lights of sunset were seen, and Ormazd looked afar.

Their next destination could be seen, even with the darkening sky, as the lights of the island's main city were starting to turn on.

"It won't be long, lad," said the sea captain. "Tomorrow morning, we'll be continuing our course to the next island. I hear that the island's main settlement, Icegocarpum City, is quite the sight to behold!"

"So Icegocarpum City is the city near where Regice is," said Ormazd. "I might have to see what it is like when we get there."

The lights of twilight faded, and the stars and the waxing gibbous moon came out to light the night.

"Well," said Ormazd, "I think it's time I turned in for the night."

"I have an extra hammock set up in my quarters," said the sea captain. "I always have my spare hammock for special guests."

"I am honored," said Ormazd. He followed the captain to his quarters. The sea captain went to one hammock, Ormazd went to the other one on the opposite side of the room.

"Good night, good hero," said the captain.

"Good night to you too, captain," Ormazd replied.

The two were about to sleep... but around midnight, everyone was in for a rude awakening.

A ghastly wail awoke all on the ship.

"Ship ahoy!" said one of the crew members, a sailor with Rattata ears and tail.

Ormazd was surprised, but the sea captain was in horror.

"Woe betide us all!" said the sea captain. "It is the ghost ship!"

"Ghost ship?" Ormazd asked in curiosity.

"Aye," the captain replied. He explained:

"Some decades ago, another sea captain made a wish on a genie to be young forever, so he can sail the sea as much as he pleased for adventure.

"But this genie was corrupted by Iblis-Mewtwo, and that wish caused that sailor to be cursed. He would forever sail the seas, even after death--when he was killed in a storm--until someone defeated his ghost form.

"Those unfortunate enough to meet this ghost ship will be lucky if they can escape it with minimal damage!"

"Who was this captain like?" asked Ormazd.

The captain thought for a moment, and then answered "If I remember correctly, he was a Sandslash person."

"I received the Gem of Suicune on the previous island," Ormazd said, smiling. "If he retained his weakness after death, I might be able to defeat him easily!"

The captain and his crew gained hope.

"You hear that, mates?" said the captain. "Ormazd should be able to defeat the spirit that has haunted us!"

"Sir," said Ormazd, "you are a Vaporeon, so shouldn't you be able to face him too?"

"I..." the captain said, embarrassed, "I didn't think of that. I thought his becoming a ghost would've made him more resistant."

"Only one way to find out," said Ormazd with a soft chuckle.

The ghost ship, which looked like a rusted metal frigate, approached the ship the Eevee hero is on.

The Sandslash captain and his Sandshrew crew approached.

The sea captain pointed his finger and shot his Bubblebeam. As Ormazd predicted, it did damage the undead foes.

Ormazd then leapt onto the ghost ship once it was close enough, and engaged the ghost Sandslash.

He then used the Gem of Suicune for the first time--the blade was soon surrounded by rippling water.

The Sandslash ghost got out his cutlass and charged at Ormazd.

The two clashed swords while the sea captain and his crew fended off the Sandshrew ghosts.

Within about a half hour, Ormazd was able to strike enough blows to defeat the Sandslash ghost.

Loud clanks and creaks could be heard. The ship was starting to fall apart. Ormazd made it back to the regular ship before the ghost ship fell apart and vanished.

"You did it!" said the sea captain. "The ghost is freed from the curse and can finally rest. The rest of his crew is finally free as well."

"Thank you," replied Ormazd. "Perhaps now we can get some rest as well before continuing on our way."

"Indeed," the captain chuckled. Everyone returned to sleep.

Sunrise came the next day. Everyone had a nice breakfast of some oatmeal with dried fruit.

Soon afterwards, the anchor was brought back up, and the ship resumed its course to the Island of Regice.

And they reached the area within two hours.

"We have arrived," said the captain.

"Perfect," said Ormazd as he joined the others in disembarking. "Let us see what adventures await!"

## Chapter 19: Saamayah's Vision

The airbike was soon loaded off the ship, and Ormazd mounted it.

He set the airbike's speed to a safe one, to calmly travel the streets of Icegocarpum City.

Now Icegocarpum was famous for its clean ice production. From making ice cubes, to coolants, to even an ice-sculpture festival, the town was famous for making and selling ice. For legend has it that Regice itself taught the first peoples of the city how to make it.

However, currently, all was not well.

A band of terrorists had invaded the city and were harassing the folk in there. These terrorists had Sneasel ears and tails, and had katar blades they would wield that resembled their claws.

Ormazd prepared his sword in its fiery mode, with the Gem of Enteï, and charged in, defeating as many terrorists as he could.

Soon, the leader of the terrorists emerged. He had light tan skin, brown-red hair, green eyes, and wore what looked like winter camouflage. He wielded a saw-toothed broadsword of ice.

"So," said the leader, "you are the Eevee that Iblis-Mewtwo fears. We will put an end to your quest here and now!"

"You're welcome to try, fiend!" replied Ormazd.

The two leapt into the air and struck their blades together.

Both landed. Ormazd crouched a bit. The people were in fear, thinking the enemy had won.

But soon, the terrorist leader fell forward, dead.  
The terrorists, seeing their leader slain, all scattered and left the city.

"I never thought I was that lucky," chuckled Ormazd, despite his aches.

Some guards from the palace emerged. They had Delibird wings on their back, and their eyebrows matched.

"Please come with us," said one of the guards. Ormazd nervously obeyed.

Ormazd accompanied the guards to the palace, which almost looked like a crystalline Arabian palace.

Inside was the sultan, who also had Delibird wings on his back. He had blue-black hair, including his beard. His eyes were sea green, and he wore a light blue turban with a sapphire in the center, as well as blue and white clothes for his royal attire.

The ruler said, "So, you are the one who defeated the terrorists and saved my city. I, Sultan Baaqir bin-Hadiataljalid, give you my gratitude, and the gratitude of the entire city."

"I did what was right, your highness," said Ormazd.

"I also heard word that you seek the power of the Three Trinities," Sultan Baaqir added.

"That is correct, sire," answered the Eevee hero.

Sultan Baaqir reached into his pocket and got out a key with a snowflake on the handle. He rose from his seat and approached Ormazd to give it to him.

"This key," said the sultan, "unlocks the Cavern of Regice, which is northwest of here."

"Thank you, sire," replied Ormazd. "I shall go there quickly."

"Safe journey, hero!" said Ormazd, as the guards prepared to escort him out of the palace safely.

Outside, Ormazd got to his airbike and rode to the northwest, as cheers from the people chorused about him. Once he was outside city limits, he traveled the island trails till he found the entrance to the cavern.

The Cavern of Regice looked like a snow-capped rock hill, even though its elevation was not that high. The door frames looked like pale bluish-white crystals.

Once he parked his airbike safely, Ormazd approached the doors and put in the key. Both the key and the lock melted, and the doors yawned open. He went in, and the doors closed behind him.

Some glowing crystals lit up, showing the main chamber.

On the other side from the entrance stood a large ice barrier. Two other holes stood out.

A deep voice spoke:

"Welcome, Ormazd al-Bunaeon. I admire your courage and skill in coming here.

"To reach me, you must find the means to melt my barrier.

"Both the chambers in the side holes will give you those. The third piece of the puzzle is here.

"Let me see you solve my riddle."

"I shall solve it indeed," said Ormazd. He went in the left hole first.

The first hole looked like a large crystal mine. Large points of crystal stood around. Ormazd explored for a while, until he saw a crystal different from the others. It appeared to be a convex lens, like those in certain glasses or telescopes. Very carefully, he picked it up and returned to the starting foyer.

A strange structure appeared where there wasn't one the first time Ormazd was here. He carefully placed the lens in one part, and some other machines covered it.

"I guess I'll find out soon enough what this does," said Ormazd as he went to the hole on the right.

The second room was warm, despite being in a cave for an Ice-type Legendary.

A slab with writing was nearby. Ormazd read it:

"This room provides supernatural sunlight, so it can be harnessed even in night. Can you summon it?"

Ormazd looked about and saw a yellow crystal sphere, most likely to imitate the sun.

Near the pedestal the sphere was on, there was a slab with what looked like handprints.

Ormazd approached the slab and put his hands upon it. Then he pressed firmly down on it.

The yellow crystal sphere started to spin and glow. A beam of light shone upward.

As he noticed the beam activating, it dawned on him.

"Of course," said Ormazd. "To melt the ice covering the entrance to Regice's place, I need to use harnessed sunlight in that device the lens was put in!"

The Eevee man soon returned to the main foyer. Sure enough, the magical sunlight was shining down on the device.

The beam shot out from the device, like a laser beam.

Ormazd got to some controls on the backside of it, and carefully steered the device. The beam was soon aimed at the ice wall.

Steam hissed and heated water sizzled as the concentrated light melted the frozen barrier.



Once the last of the ice melted--which took an hour and a half--the device shut down, its task completed.

The once-frozen doors soon opened.

The Eevee then entered into the next room.

The room behind the doors looked like a crystalline throne room.

On the ice-like throne was a peach-skinned human who was bald, yet had black eyebrows. His eyes were cerulean. He wore ice-like armor, and his helmet had the Braille-like dots that was indicative of Regice.

Sure enough, it was the avatar of Regice itself.

"So you made it!" said Regice with a chuckle. "I never thought you'd find my lens. That is often the hardest part of my puzzle. Very wise of you to take care of that first."

"I guess so," Ormazd chuckled.

Regice then arose and got out his ice hammer, saying "I know you seek my gem. Let's test your worthiness to have it!"

Ormazd prepared his gear, got the sword ignited into a flame sword, and replied, "I am ready!"

The ice Legendary lunged toward Ormazd and swung his hammer. Ormazd barely dodged and swung his fiery blade, striking his first blow.

"Amazing," said Regice. "You were able to get the first blow in. But you know that, unlike glaciers, I am not slow. But I can slow you!"

Regice conjured up his Icy Wind, which made the Eevee adventurer shiver.

Then the Iceberg Pokémon charged with his hammer again. Ormazd barely was able to get his shield up in time. Once there was an opening, he thrust with his flame sword.

"Urgh!" grunted Regice. "Very good. But can you prepare for this?"

The Legendary Pokémon then tossed the hammer into the ceiling briefly, causing large hailstones to fall. Ormazd ran about, dodging the large blocks of ice. When the ice storm stopped, the hammer came back down, and Regice caught it. The battlefield was much trickier to get to the target now.

"Just try and get to me!" said Regice. Ormazd swung his blade to melt as much of the ice as possible. But Regice swung his hammer and sent some ice shots at the Eevee like croquet balls. For those, Ormazd either dodged or blocked with his shield.

The Eevee swung his sword, making his way to Regice. Then, once close enough, Ormazd swung one last time.

"You win!" said Regice, catching his breath after that last blow. The large ice boulders melted away, and the throne room restored to normal.

A gem the color of an iceberg materialized on Ormazd's shield.

"This gem," said Regice, "will make you shield like a magic mirror, and can send most spells back at enemies. What's more, when combined with the other two gems, it becomes a divine shield. You'll find out soon enough when the final battle comes."

"Thank you, Regice!" said Ormazd as he put his gear away.

"The Three Trinities are with you," said Regice. "And we shall guide you to victory!"

Again, Ormazd blacked out. And when he could see again, he was outside the Cavern of Regice. Ormazd again mounted his airbike and returned to Icegocarpum City.

As Ormazd made it back to Icegocarpum, Saamayah again danced at her inn.

But after taking a bow at the end of the dance, she had a vision. She saw Ormazd and Iblis-Mewtwo having their battle. At what seemed to be the final part, everything froze in place.

A voice in the vision said, "Be with Ormazd there. Be a witness of his triumph. You will soon find him on the Island of Articulo."

She soon came to.

"Are you all right, Saamayah?" asked one of the guests.

"I had a vision," said Saamayah. "I must go to find Ormazd."

She went to her desk and contacted someone she knew she could trust. A Delcatty woman soon came to the inn.

"Saffron," said Saamayah to her friend, "I must go to Ormazd, so I am placing the inn in your care until I return."

"Safe journey, Saamayah," said Saffron.

"I hope to see you all again soon," Saamayah said to the other guests at the inn. The guests gave their well-wishes as well.

A small bus was soon leaving, and Saamayah showed her pass--she had one in the event she needed to travel abroad.

"Where to?" said the Persian bus driver.

"To Seidlitzia Port," answered Saamayah. "I think it has recovered now."

"All right," said the bus driver as Saamayah took her seat.

The bus made its way to the port town. As Saamayah predicted, Seidlitzia Port had since recovered from Iblis-Mewtwo's attack.

Saamayah then purchased a ticket for herself and soon boarded the boat to the Island of Articulo, where the vision told her.

"Ormazd," she thought, "I will soon be there for you."

## Chapter 20: The Last Challenge

The ship Ormazd rode soon arrived to the Island of Articulo. Ormazd himself only briefly visited Icegocarpum back in the Island of Regice to reassure the sultan and the people that all is well.

It wasn't long until the craft arrived in the port of Vachellartica City, the city on the Island of Articulo.

When Ormazd got off the ship, he was surprised to see his beloved Saamayah there.

"Saamayah?" Ormazd asked.

The beautiful Eevee woman ran up and embraced Ormazd.

"Ormazd!" she said. "I'm glad you made it!"

"What are you doing here?" Ormazd said, still taken aback at her presence.

"I was dancing at my inn," explained Saamayah, "and I saw a vision. I saw you facing Iblis-Mewtwo, and a voice told me to be with you to witness your triumph."

"My love," said Ormazd. "It might be dangerous for you."

"Even so," said Saamayah, gently touching Ormazd's lips, "whatever happens from here on out, we face it together."

"Thank you, Saamayah," replied Ormazd. The two kissed, and then they went together to go into the city.

Vachellartica City was known for its recreational areas, making it a favorite spot for tourists. The beaches were warm enough, but there were some mountains that, despite not being very high, have caps of snow from Articulo, making it a great spot for skiing and sledding.

The two Eevee explored the city, and soon found the palace, which looked like a mix between an Arabian and a Russian castle. The gates were open, and one of the servants emerged.

The servant, a young man who had a Seel tail and horn, asked, "Are one of you Ormazd al-Bunaeon?"

Ormazd said, "Yes, I am Ormazd al-Bunaeon."

The servant replied, "The sultan is expecting you. Follow me."

Ormazd and Saamayah went into the palace. They followed the servant through the warm halls and made it to the throne room. The sultan had tan skin, his hair and beard were brown, and his eyes were green. He wore teal and light blue clothes as well as a turban. And he had the tail and horn of a Dewgong.

"Welcome, Ormazd!" the sultan said cheerfully. "I am Sultan Labib Al'Utum, ruler of Vachellartica. I've heard of you already."

"Thank you, sire," said Ormazd.

"Who is the lovely maiden with you," asked Sultan Labib.

"I am Saamayah al-Qarfavee," replied Saamayah.

"The innkeeper of PokeBlyttia Town?" Labib said in astonishment.

"Yes," said Saamayah, "and Ormazd's beloved. I had entrusted my inn to a friend so I can be with Ormazd."

"I see," said the sultan. He then looked back at Ormazd and said, "So you are likely to go to the Tower of Articuno."

"Yes, your excellent," said Ormazd.

The sultan reached into a pocket in his pants and retrieved a key that looks like it has a blue feather on its handle.

"Here is the key to the Tower of Articuno," said the sultan. Ormazd approached the royal figure and graciously picked up the object.

"Thank you again, sire," said Ormazd.

Saamayah said, "I know you'll succeed in getting the last power from the Three Trinities. If it is well, I'll stay here while you get Articuno's aid. I'm sure the sultan would love to see my dance."

Ormazd chuckled and replied, "Oh, I know he'll love it."

"Indeed," added Sultan Labib.

Ormazd followed the servant through the halls again, as Saamayah prepared to perform her dancing for the sultan.

The airbike was parked near the palace, as the sea captain had seen the two Eevee enter the palace earlier.

"The Tower of Articuno is east and a little north of here," said the servant.

"Thank you, good man," said Ormazd as he mounted his bike.

The vehicle soon came to life, and he soon drove off to the tower.

It wasn't long till the tall structure came into view. The Tower of Articuno looked like a conical ice point, which spiraled upward.

As soon as he found a parking spot, Ormazd inserted the key into the tower's lock. Both the lock and key melted, and the doors opened.

The Eevee man entered the tower, and the doors closed behind him once he was inside.

The crystalline lamps lit, and Ormazd saw himself inside the tower.

A female, almost whisper-like voice, spoke:

"So you have arrived, Ormazd al-Bunaeon. I, the Avatar of Articuno, welcome you.

"I have a challenge for you, which is two puzzles in one. First, you must make the spiral fountain flow again. After that, you need to find a way to freeze it to form the stairway to the roof, where I await.

"You've completed the challenges of my allies, so I have no doubt you'll succeed again."

"I am prepared for anything, Articuno!" said Ormazd as he set out to find the means to fulfill the tasks.

The Eevee soon faced a strange fountain machine.

Some instructions were barely visible, but it told that the fountain needed to be primed first. Second, any blockages needed to be removed. And finally, it needed a charge.

Ormazd thought a bit. He knew priming would mean putting water into it to get the natural forces at work to make the water flow. With the Gem of Suicune, he used the water blade to prime the fountain.

Once he heard the fountain flowing, he looked for obstructions. He soon found them--blocks of ice obstructing the pipes. Using the Gem of Entei and creating a flame sword, Ormazd melted away the frozen blockades, which only took a few minutes.

With the pipes cleared, Ormazd looked for what could charge up the device, and saw what looked like connector clips. He then used the Gem of Raikou to make a thunder sword and placed the electrified blade in between the clips to charge up the device. The device hummed to life and started pumping the fountain.



A large double spiral of water soon shot upward. The device desalinated the water to make the fountain, and then used water that returned got the right amount of salt back as it returned into the sea.

"So this is the spiral fountain Articuno spoke of," Ormazd said to himself. "Now to find a way to freeze it into stairs."

Ormazd looked briefly at his shield. He had the Gem of Regice on it. He remembered that normally it would make a mirror shield in battle. But...

"Maybe," he thought. "Just maybe..."

Ormazd tapped into the gem's power. The gem glowed, and he inserted the shield into the fountain waters.

The fountain's waters soon froze and turned into stairs. The stairs created some padding to avoid slipping. And there was a notch that allowed the Eevee to get his shield back, which covered up once he did so.

"Amazing how the magic here works," chuckled Ormazd as he carefully climbed up the stairs. He was amazed the padding was sufficient for footing. The Eevee took in the scenery as he ascended upward toward the top. The crystalline glass kept any strong gusts out that would be a falling hazard to him.

Eventually, Ormazd made it to the top. There was a flat flooring on top, and the clouds flowed past.

Descending from the sky was a woman with light tan skin, deep bluish hair, and sky-blue eyes. She had a tube top and long skirt, and was barefoot. She had a tiara that resembled Articuno's headfeathers, and Articuno wings on her back. Indeed, she was the avatar of the legendary ice bird.

"You made it," said Articuno. "I didn't think you'd figure out how to use Regice's powers to create the stairway."

"I suppose it was intuition," Ormazd replied meekly.

The woman soon got out her ice rapier and assumed a stance. At the same time, an icy fence surrounded the edges of the roof.

"Like my decoration?" said Articuno. "Wouldn't want a fatal mishap after all. Let us begin, since we both know why we're here."

Ormazd prepared his gear. He also prepared the sword to the electrical blade form.

"I am ready when you are," replied Ormazd.

Articuno then thrust forward and charged. Ormazd quickly dodged. The woman then swung again, but Ormazd sidestepped and swung his thunder sword, striking her.

"Ack!" screeched Articuno. "You have done well. But let's see how you deal with this!"

The avatar of Articuno raised her sword, and a snowstorm brewed. Ormazd shivered as the winds blew and slung flakes of snow about. The footing even became a bit treacherous.

Articuno then began to go on the attack again. Ormazd prepared his shield with the Registeel gem, and it blocked her. Ormazd thrust with his thunder sword, striking again.

"Oh!" Articuno said in surprise. "You are resilient. But I have one more trick up my sleeve!"

The snowstorm intensified. And Articuno rose up with her wings. She then charged up an Ice Beam into her sword.

Ormazd used the Gem of Regice, and made a mirror shield.

When Articuno sent out her Ice Beam, Ormazd sent out his mirror shield at the last possible moment, sending the beam back at her!

Once the beam hit, she slowly descended--her wings slightly weakened by the return blast. Ormazd raced up and swung his electrical sword one last time in an upward slash.

Articuno landed and panted.

"Enough!" she said. "You have won. You now have my power."

Articuno then plucked one of her feathers and placed it on Ormazd's cape.

"This feather," Articuno explained, "allows you to glide with your cape. It can even slow descent. Try it out on my tower."

Ormazd took a leap of faith. The feather kicked in, and it was almost like a parachute slowly and gracefully carrying him down.

Once he landed, Ormazd saw Articuno fly down toward him.

"Also," she continued, "when the time is right, the feather will join with those of Zapdos and Moltres, giving you angelic wings."

"Thank you again, Articuno," said Ormazd. "I guess we'll see what it does soon enough."

"The Three Trinities are with you!" said Articuno. "And we shall guide you to victory!"

One last time, light briefly blinded the Eevee man. When Ormazd could see again, he saw he was again alone, and his airbike was near him. He soon traveled back to Vachellartica City.

When Ormazd returned to the palace, and was escorted by the servant back to the throne room, he saw the sultan and Saamayah welcoming him back.

"You now have all the powers of the Three Trinities, I see," said the sultan.

"How about I get your spirits ready for the battle to come?" said Saamayah. "I'll perform a dance to boost your courage!"

"I would enjoy that indeed!" said Ormazd.

"Sit near me, friend," said the sultan. "Let's watch this maiden's moves together."

Ormazd chuckled as he sat near the ruler.

At once, Saamayah performed her dancing before the people in attendance. At the end of her dance, she knelt before the sultan, and all there applauded.

"That's my love!" said Ormazd as he clapped.

But soon, rumbling was heard, and the skies outside darkened, despite it being still early afternoon.

Ormazd and Saamayah emerged from the palace, and looked in horror as a large vision of Iblis-Mewtwo emerged.

"So," said Iblis-Mewtwo, "you have gained the powers of the Three Trinities. I'd like to see how well they do against me! Face me if you dare! I shall soon unleash all my power to remake Poké-Arabia into my style!"

The archfiend cackled as his image faded. The darkness, however, remained.

## Chapter 21: Fall of Iblis-Mewtwo

"I must stop Iblis-Mewtwo now!" said Ormazd.

Saamayah held Ormazd's hand.

"I shall accompany you," said Saamayah. "I say again-- whatever happens from here on, we face together!"

Ormazd was silent at first, but then, he saw her love and devotion.

"Thank you," said Ormazd, as they kissed.

"I have a plane that can get you to the Mountain of Iblis-Mewtwo," said the sea captain, who had visited the palace at the time. "I recall a platform near a cave, and it should get you close enough."

The sea captain got Ormazd and Saamayah to a small plane that was on his ship. There was no need to use the airplane until this point, but now it was time.

The pilot, a man with Umbreon ears and tail, was willing to take the risk. His black hair was barely visible under his pilot helmet, and the pair could see his tan eyes through the goggles.

"Hold on, you two!" said the pilot. "Knowing Iblis-Mewtwo, he might try to use the weather against us!"

The plane soon took off. As the pilot predicted, Iblis-Mewtwo sent out some strong winds to blow them off course. But he was able to keep the plane steady, and the lightning was unable to strike the craft, as there was a long enough pause between the glow and when the bolt shot.

Soon, the small aircraft landed on the platform near the cave.

"I'll be standing by," said the pilot. "Best of luck to you!"

Ormazd nodded as he and Saamayah entered the cave.

The Eevee pair soon found some passages featuring some traps.

"What should we do here, Ormazd?" asked Saamayah.

"I think this is where the powers of the feathers on my cape will come in handy," said Ormazd.

He then scooped up Saamayah in his arms and channeled into the feathers of Articuno, Zapdos, and Moltres.

With the feather of Zapdos, he was able to dash through the paths faster than the traps could trigger.

A large wall stood in their way, but with the Feather of Moltres, Ormazd could just leap up on the top.

At the top of the wall, he and Saamayah saw a large gap between them and the other side. But with his beloved still in his arms, he leapt and used the power of Articuno to glide them to the other edge safely.

"Amazing!" said Saamayah. "And those are just the powers given by just one Trinity. I wonder what the other two Trinities might do?"

"We'll find out soon enough," said Ormazd. Helping Saamayah back onto her feet, he added, "Let's continue on."

Further into the Mountain of Iblis-Mewtwo, Ormazd and Saamayah soon found more hazards.

The first trap they found was a spiked ball swinging back and forth. It was too erratic to dodge safely.

Ormazd then channeled into the Gem of Regirock and walked toward the spike ball. Saamayah looked afar with concerned, and prayed for her lover's safety.

The spike ball then hit the shield and shattered, yet the shield stayed intact.

Ormazd focused and the shield returned to normal.

"It's safe to continue," said Ormazd. Saamayah did so.

The pair continued and soon saw a glowing sphere floating about, zigzagging and making strange patterns. They knew that whatever the orb was, it was dangerous.

The Eevee hero soon focused again, this time tapping into the Gem of Registeel. The shield was able to stop magical threats.

Ormazd charged in, covered by his shield. The glowing sphere struck the shield, but the sphere dissipated. Ormazd then made the shield regular again. Saamayah approached and hugged him.

"That was wonderful," she said. "It's as though these traps didn't expect you to know what power did what."

"Or," said Ormazd, "perhaps Iblis-Mewtwo wants us to fall into a false sense of security, because he wants to finish me himself. In any case, let's continue."

Saamayah just nodded as she followed him deeper into the mountain. The pair ascended up a stairway.

A gate near the top of the steps stood shut, and a sphere was above the main keystone of the gateway.

"Be careful," said Saamayah. "I have a feeling that sphere might conceal a trap."

Ormazd just smiled and focused, using the Gem of Regice to become a mirror shield. He then slowly walked forward with the mirror shield ready. A beam shot from the orb, but the mirror shield sent the beam back to the orb, destroying it. As the shield reverted back to normal, the gates yawned open. The pair then entered into the opened gateway.

A large chamber was before them, and on the other side stood another gate. The gate showed evil faces on its

doors, and a skull design served as its key stone. Surely enough, this gate led to the chamber of Iblis-Mewtwo.

But within the chamber stood three statues. One was of a Sceptile, the second was a Charizard, and the third was a Feraligatr.

The Sceptile Statue shook, shedding its clay shell, and revealing an evil clone of said Pokémon. Its Leaf Blade swung about. Saamayah was barely able to get out of the way, and Ormazd blocked with his shield. He then prepared his Flame Sword, using the Gem of Entei, to fight. After a few minutes, Ormazd was able to land enough blows to stop the clone. It stood still for three seconds, and then crumbled into dust.

The Charizard statue came to life next, revealing another clone of it. Ormazd prepared the Gem of Suicune and made a Water Sword with it. The Eevee hero dodged the Charizard's Flamethrower breath and leapt at the enemy when possible to deliver blows. When the last attack landed, the clone crashed and became dust.

Finally, the Feraligatr statue trembled and revealed the clone hidden inside. The beastly Pokémon spat out its Hydro Pump, and both Eevee dodged. Ormazd then created his Thunder Sword with the Gem of Raikou. He sidestepped the opponent's gushes of water and struck when close, and retreated until it was safe to advance again. Eventually, the last blow landed, and the Feraligatr clone disappeared into dust.

After the final fake Pokémon fell, the gates opened.

"It is time," said Saamayah.

"The final battle is about to begin," said Ormazd. He and Saamayah soon entered.

Once the two entered the gates, the gates shut tight behind them.



The chamber they had entered looked like something from the Underworld itself. The braziers and candelabras had appearances of monster skulls. On the walls were evil demonic-looking faces, yet had some features of Pokémon on them as well.

In the roof was a hole that let light in, as though to transport airborne servants to and fro.

At the other end of the chamber, the evil Iblis-Mewtwo sat on his throne.

He slowly rose up and applauded Ormazd and Saamayah.

"I admit, I am impressed," laughed the demon leader. "I did not expect you to come up with the solutions to my puzzles so easily. I would expect mortals like you to overthink the challenges, when in reality, the best solutions are often the simplest."

"That is a lesson I learned in my youth," said Ormazd.

"And you even brought your beloved, young man," the demon chuckled. "How sweet... how nauseating."

"Your evil will soon end!" said Saamayah. "Ormazd will see to that."

"We'll see," sneered Iblis-Mewtwo. "I know we aren't here to just talk. Shall we begin?"

Iblis-Mewtwo fanned his demon wings and took to the air.

"Saamayah!" said Ormazd, "Get back! He looks like he's about to send some attacks!"

As warned, the demon sent out some energy shots. Ormazd used the Feather of Zapdos to dash about, dodging most. When one was coming at him that he couldn't dodge, he used the Gem of Regice to make a mirror shield to send the shot back at the demon. This caused him to fall back to the floor,

and he took on an Ice Form. Using the Flame Sword from the Gem of Entei, Ormazd struck the first blow on the fiend.

"Argh!" roared Iblis-Mewtwo. "This is just the beginning!"

The demon again mustered his power. He created a broadsword and swung it about. One even created a stream of fire across the floor, and the fiend himself took on a liquid form. Ormazd used the Gem of Regirock to block the sword blows, and the Feather of Moltres to leap over the stream of fire when the enemy tried to retreat behind it. Once Ormazd got close enough, he made the Thunder Sword from the Gem of Raikou, and struck again.

"Blast you!" Iblis-Mewtwo yelled in anger. He raised his arms and made a large column that trapped Ormazd up high at first, but the Feather of Articuno allowed the hero to float down safely. Iblis took on an Earthen Form--the Ground-type--and sent out spheres of energy. Ormazd used the Gem of Registeel to block the magic attacks, and once he was close, he swung his Water Sword from the Gem of Suicune.

Iblis-Mewtwo collapsed on the floor. It appeared as though Ormazd had one.

"Ormazd, you did it!" cheered Saamayah as she emerged.

When Saamayah got close to Ormazd, Iblis-Mewtwo again got up and shot a beam at her, striking her in the chest.

"Aaaah!" the woman cried in pain.

Miraculously, the beam just barely missed any vital organs, but the agony of the blow caused her to go into unconsciousness.

Ormazd was horrified. He cried, "Saamayah! NO!"

He held the lovely figure of Saamayah in his arms. Tears flowed from his eyes, as he feared that his beloved would soon die.

His sorrow turned to wrath as he again faced Iblis-Mewtwo. The demon had harmed many innocents already, but now, he had dared to strike a blow to Ormazd's beloved.

Ormazd was determined to make the demon pay for all the evils he had done.

The gems on Ormazd's sword, the gems on his shield, and the feathers on his cape, all glowed. Soon, they all turned white.

The blade on Ormazd's falchion soon turned it to a bright white blade of light. His shield gained sacred runes on it. And his cape transformed into divine wings.

"This must be the Divine Element that the Three Trinities spoke of!" Ormazd said in astonishment. He then faced Iblis-Mewtwo, and said, "Now, it is time to send you back to the depths!"

Both Ormazd and Iblis-Mewtwo took to flight.

The arch demon sent out spheres of dark magic towards the Eevee hero, but the Divine Shield blocked them all.

Iblis-Mewtwo soon began to panic and started to rapid-fire his magic, but it was in vain.

Ormazd soon got close enough and started swinging his Holy Sword at the evil creature. He would show no mercy to the demon. His love for Saamayah, and fear of losing her, drove him on.

When the last blow fell, Iblis-Mewtwo again fell, and a spiral appeared under his fallen figure, dragging him back to the Underworld.

Ormazd then carefully landed next to Saamayah, and he picked her up in his arms.

"Please, Saamayah," said Ormazd. "Please still be alive."

The woman moaned. She was still alive.

The mountain soon began to rumble.

"I have to get out of here!" said Ormazd.

He then was surprised to see a carpet take flight.

"I didn't know there was a flying carpet here!" said Ormazd. He carried his beloved Saamayah toward the carpet, and they rode it up the hole in the ceiling. They flew past the pilot, who was in the plane.

"Come on!" said Ormazd to the pilot. "This mountain is about to collapse!"

The pilot soon took off, and all escaped the crumbling peak.

When the carpet got close to the plane, Ormazd said, "Tell the captain I'm heading back to PokeBlyttia Town. Saamayah here needs help badly!"

The pilot nodded in acknowledgement, and they parted ways.

The flying carpet soon made it to PokeBlyttia Town in the jungle region.

The people gasped when they saw Ormazd carrying the still figure of Saamayah.

"Is there a doctor here?" said Ormazd.

A few doctors arrived. And some assistants got a stretcher ready. Ormazd gently lay Saamayah on the stretcher.

"Please hurry!" Ormazd said, concern showing in his tone.

Another doctor allowed Ormazd into his vehicle as they traveled to the hospital.

The man sat in a waiting room, silently yet earnestly praying that Saamayah would pull through.

Soon, a Skitty nurse emerged, with a smile.

"Good news, friend," giggled the nurse. "Saamayah had come out of her coma. Even our doctors are amazed at how quickly she is healing up!"

"Thank the heavens!" said Ormazd. "May I visit her?"

"Funny you should ask," the nurse replied. "She herself actually asked for you to come in."

She escorted Ormazd in. Saamayah was bandaged, but it was obvious she was on the path to recovery.

"Ormazd," said Saamayah, still weak but happy.

"It's all over, Saamayah," said Ormazd. "Iblis-Mewtwo has been defeated. Poké-Arabia is safe again."

"I know, my love," Saamayah continued. "In my coma, I saw in a dream that you would win. And indeed you have."

The two kissed to celebrate.

A few days later, Saamayah was able to leave the hospital, fully recovered.

She and Ormazd embraced for the first time since before the final battle.

## Epilogue

A month and a half passed since the battle with Iblis-Mewtwo.

A great celebration was being held in PokeBlyttia Town, and the sultans from each of the cities got to be in attendance.

It was the wedding of Ormazd and Saamayah.

Ormazd was dressed in a much fancier version of the attire he wore on his adventures. Saamayah was in a beautiful bridal robe and veil.

The two held hands in front of the shrine, as the priest of the shrine officiated the ceremony.

The Three Trinities watched from above, as the hero and his beloved would devote their lives to each other.

After the main ceremony and the kiss, the reception began, and each of the sultans brought something to the celebration as well.

Even after the wedding, much cheer was had.

Each of the sultans returned to their respective kingdoms, and the sultans related to each of their servants the good that was done. And the servants in turn spread the word to the people, so all would know from generation to generation.

The sword, shield, and cape were kept in the shrine of Oliveevee Town, until they were needed again.

As for Ormazd and Saamayah, they lived in PokeBlyttia Town. When not tending to the inn, or sharing tales of the adventures to younger children, they spent romantic time together.

An era of peace and prosperity had begun for the land of Poké-Arabia.